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CREATION VS. EVOLUTION

A shattering critique of the PBS/NOVA television series 'Evolution'
By *Answers in Genesis*

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Super-Scientist Slams Society's Spiritual Sickness: Dr Raymond Damadian, Pioneer of MRI

First published in:
Creation 16(3):35–37
June–August 1994

Dr Raymond V. Damadian would probably be too humble to accept the title ‘super-scientist’ but the many people whose lives have been saved by the MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) scanning technology he developed might think otherwise.

Hailed as one of the greatest diagnostic breakthroughs ever, this technique, using advanced principles of physics and computing, lets doctors visualize many organs and their diseased parts without the risks of exploratory surgery or the radiation associated with traditional scanning methods.

HALL OF FAME

Dr Damadian’s invention has earned him several top awards, including the United States’ National Medal of Technology, the Lincoln-Edison Medal, and induction into the National Inventors Hall of Fame alongside Thomas Edison, Alexander Graham Bell and the Wright brothers.

A Bible-believing Christian, this great inventor is convinced of the scientific truth of Genesis creation and its foundational importance to church and society.

Despite his fame, however, life has had its difficulties for this revolutionizer of medicine.

First, there were the years of hard work against much opposition and many doubters. His interest in the idea of MRI began when he was a young professor engaged in active scientific research at the State University of New York. Skeptics sarcastically informed him that to use the then-young technique of nuclear magnetic resonance in a medical imaging machine would mean rotating the patient at 10,000 revolutions per minute!

He said that ‘theoretical physicists claimed to have done calculations demonstrating that my idea was beyond what the theory of physics would allow.’ This worried and confounded would-be financial backers, but Dr Damadian took it as a challenge for himself as an ‘experimentalist’ to ‘do something the theorists say can’t be done.’

Finally, he was granted a US patent for a functioning MRI machine. Today, MRI is a world-famous, multi-billion-dollar technology with more than 4,000 of these complex machines installed around the world. Dr Damadian told *Creation* magazine of how his company, formed to exploit the legal patent with great potential benefits to many Americans, experienced something extraordinary. Several huge overseas and multinational firms began manufacturing MRI scanners in spite of his patent. Dr Damadian’s small company was forced to go to court—a jury trial in 1982 found the patent to be valid and in-fringed. He had won!

The happiness, however, was short-lived. For some reason the judge, six weeks after the trial, ‘voided the jury’s verdict and substituted his own.’ Dr Damadian had lost. He says that after his company had

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spent \$2.2 million in legal fees he learned the difficulties of a ‘little fellow’ inventing a BIG product. Undaunted, his small company nevertheless carved a niche in the marketplace. However, the really huge rewards are going overseas, to companies which were not involved in the invention at all.

SYMPTOM OF SICKNESS

Dr Damadian points out that this apparent injustice (shared by the inventors of such things as the laser, tetracycline, the Early Stall Warning device and many more) was even more economically damaging to the US than to himself. In reality, he says, it is just ‘a symptom of a more widespread disease afflicting our society’. He believes that America is ailing spiritually. Influenced more and more by an evolution-based humanistic education system, America is adrift of its spiritual moorings.

Can such a society, with its relative ethics and increasing abandonment of God’s absolute standards revealed in the Bible, ‘continue to discern the just from the unjust?’ he asks. Will not such a society more and more forfeit the blessings which its forefathers wrought through obedience to God’s Law?

He quotes Russian writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn as saying ‘the strength or weakness of a society depends more on the level of its spiritual life than on its level of industrialization.’ Without the general adherence of a society to God’s laws, the most perfect governmental system cannot prevent eventual collapse. ‘Freedom’ will deteriorate to be ‘freedom to be unscrupulous’, because, says Solzhenitsyn, there is no law which can anticipate or prevent this.

HIGHEST PURPOSE

Dr Damadian says emphatically that his greatest scientific discovery was to find that ‘the highest purpose a man can find for his life is to serve the Will of God.’ He recently attended a major seminar at which he heard creation speaker Ken Ham calling for Americans to return to trust in the whole Word of God ‘beginning with Moses and the prophets’. He says that he is tremendously encouraged by the creation science ministry and blessed by it, calling it ‘a courageous exposition of the truth’ and a vitally important message for America today.

He believes that rejection of God’s account of Creation as the foundation for our society is basic to the spiritual, social and economic sickness of our times. We are replaying ‘the seven steps of human regression and social disintegration’ which the Apostle Paul described in Romans chapter 1 as happening subsequent to the rejection of the true God as Creator.

If Genesis cannot be accepted unqualified, what else in Scripture can be taken as the unqualified Word of God? Acceptance of the unqualified Word of God ‘has been the foundation for Western civilization since the printing of the Gutenberg Bible in the fifteenth century’, he says. This has resulted in 200 years of blessing for Western civilization, including a level of individual freedom ‘unprecedented in human history’.

Dr Damadian says that ‘if America is to be rescued, she must be rescued from the pulpit—it is too late for the White House’. He says that Americans need to realize that any country ‘runs off its spiritual batteries, not off its bank accounts, and when those batteries are drained, its bank accounts will be empty.’

HOW DOES MRI SCANNING WORK?

Nuclear magnetic resonance is the fundamental principle exploited by MRI scanners. The nucleus of an atom can behave like a tiny magnet since its protons are electrically charged and spinning, and the neutron also has a magnetic field. The only nuclei that lack magnetic fields are those with even numbers of both protons and neutrons, because the particles pair off and cancel out each others’ field. The atomic nucleus spins on its axis. When the body with its atoms is placed in the magnet of an MRI machine the axes of spin in atomic nuclei line up with the direction of the magnetic field, which

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has a lower energy than aligning against the field. Radiation of the right frequency can be absorbed and cause the nuclei to switch from the lower energy state to a higher one. A radio coil wrapped around the body injects radio waves and the body's atomic nuclei 'answer back' with a radio signal. The radio waves produce the signal by causing the nuclei to flip back and forth from their orientation with the field to their orientation against it. The hard part is to design a machine to 'read' the differing signals from differing tissues in the body (which have different 'proton densities'—for example more or less water content) and translate this into a clearly defined image. If you have ever had to have one of these scans, you would have been asked first to make sure you had no metal objects on you. The magnetic pulse is so strong that metal objects would literally fly across the room if close to the machine.

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Dr Russell Humphreys, Ph D ***Creation in the Physics Lab***

by Carl Wieland

First published in:
Creation 15(3): 20-23
June–August 1993

BIOGRAPHY

Dr Humphreys was awarded his Ph.D. in physics from Louisiana State University in 1972, by which time he was a fully convinced creationist. For the next 6 years he worked in the High Voltage Laboratory of General Electric Company, designing and inventing equipment and researching high-voltage phenomena. While there, he received a US patent and one of *Industrial Research Magazine's* IR-100 awards.

Since 1979 he has worked for Sandia National Laboratories (New Mexico) in nuclear physics, geophysics, pulsed-power research, and theoretical atomic and nuclear physics. Since 1985 he has been working with Sandia's 'Particle Beam Fusion Project', and was co-inventor of special laser-triggered 'Rimfire' high-voltage switches, now coming into wider use.

The last few years have seen greater emphasis on theoretical nuclear physics and radiation hydrodynamics in an effort to help produce the world's first lab-scale thermonuclear fusion. Besides gaining another U.S. patent, Dr Humphreys has been given two awards from Sandia, including an Award for Excellence for contributions to light ion-fusion target theory.

EDUCATION

- B.S., Duke University, Durham, NC, 1963
- Ph.D., Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA, 1972

HONORS/AWARDS/ASSOCIATIONS

- Creation Science Fellowship of New Mexico, President
- *Industrial Research Magazine's* IR-100 award
- Award for Excellence for contributions to light ion-fusion target theory
- Adjunct professor of the Institute for Creation Research in San Diego
- Board member of the Creation Research Society

PUBLICATIONS

Dr Humphreys has published some 20 papers in secular scientific journals, as well as many creationist technical papers. He is also the author of *Starlight and Time*, in which he proposes a model that the

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universe may only be thousands of years old even though light from distant stars appears to have taken billions of years to reach Earth. He is also author of *Evidences for a Young World* (available as a tract), and this is also the title of a video featuring Dr Humphreys.

AN ILLUMINATING INTERVIEW

Carl Wieland: Dr Humphreys, Australian audiences were thrilled to receive the tremendous amount of information you gave them on your recent lecture tour. You know, some of the vocal opponents of creation science in Australia have been going around saying that creationism involves abandoning 'all of atomic physics'.

RH: Well, actually I find just the reverse. I find that my work in creationism involves getting information from Scripture that relates to nuclear physics, and I have used that information to generate several theories which have proved remarkably successful.

Well, a good scientific theory is one which makes predictions, and it was exciting to hear about several models of yours, based on creation, which generated successful predictions.

One model was based on 2 Peter 3:5, which talks about how God made the Earth, and I applied that. I took that as a clue, and had an idea about how God might have started out the Earth's magnetic field. And then I found that worked fairly well and it gave the right strength for the Earth's magnetic field.

So I then asked myself 'Perhaps God used the same method to make the other bodies in the solar system, the sun and the moon and the planets?' So I calculated the fields of all the planets that we had already explored up to that time, which was 1984, and the theory gave right values for those planets also.

I published these results in a Creation Research Society Quarterly article in December, 1984, and in that article I said that a good test of my theory would be to check out what the strength of the fields of the planets Uranus and Neptune were relative to my theory. For Uranus, the evolutionary predictions were generally about 100,000 times less than my published predictions, so I thought it was a good test.

So, what was the result when Voyager finally made the measurements?

The result was smack in the middle of my prediction, and 100,000 times greater than the evolutionary predictions. So the creation model was the clear winner in that case.

And for Neptune as well.

Yes, that's right.

Did you get any comments from evolutionists about these fulfilled predictions?

Yes. Stephen Brush, a fairly well known anti-creationist in the United States, wrote to me after the first prediction came true and I had mentioned this in an ICR *Impact* article. He said he was basically trying to find some way around the fact that I had made a prediction, and I wrote him a polite letter back and tried to explain things to him. He wrote another letter back and that was the end of the correspondence.

But about six months later, an article by him appeared in *Science* magazine. The gist of it was that 'Well, predictions are not really a way to do good science', so he was basically backing down from the classical scientific view that predictions are a good way to validate a theory.

I remember reading an article of yours some time ago and being impressed by the way in



which you didn't just accept the then prevalent idea in creationism that the alleged magnetic reversals of the Earth's field weren't for real, but instead you actually investigated the matter for yourself in-depth.

That's correct. I took a graduate-level college course in it from a fairly well-known expert in palaeomagnetism and I read lots of books and did field studies for myself. I found that the evidence that these reversals had happened was overwhelming.

Your model of rapid fluctuations and reversals during the Genesis Flood is now becoming much more widely accepted in creationist circles. There was another prediction that came out of that, wasn't there?

Yes. Basically when I did the first study and published it in 1986 at the International Conference on Creationism, I said that these reversals had to have happened about every week or two. And I also said, at the end of the paper, what would be good evidence for this model—namely, to find a thin layer of lava which had recorded a good chunk of a reversal. When lava cools down it freezes into itself information about the direction and strength of the Earth's magnetic field at the time. If a lava layer is fairly thin, it will cool down within a matter of weeks. And so, if you found in such a thin layer a large amount of reversal, that would be strong evidence for the theory.

And was that prediction then fulfilled?

Yes, it was. In April 1989, a paper appeared in *Earth and Planetary Science Letters* by Robert S. Coe and Michel Prevot, and basically, while I don't think they had read my paper, they did exactly what I had suggested. They found a thin lava layer which had 90 degrees of reversal recorded continuously in it and they calculated that the layer had to cool down within a matter of 15 days or less.

Actually they were very conservative, and it was probably more like only three to seven days. Their paper is filled with statements like, 'astonishingly fast change in the Earth's magnetic field', and 'truly strains the imagination', and other such comments that indicated that this was a very surprising result to them.

Evolutionists have always taught that these reversals take hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of years, haven't they?

Yes. In fact they had even thought that it was physically impossible for reversals to take place faster than a few thousand years.

Well, they are not reckoning with a catastrophe like the Genesis Flood, are they?

No. They are not reckoning with that kind of catastrophe and what it might do in the Earth's core.

Could the evolutionists argue that this is a one-off fluke?

They can't because Robert Coe has done it again. Just recently, he has found some more data of the same sort, but it indicates a change even faster than the first one that he found and it is in a different stratum. So it would be extremely unlikely for him to find the second one if it was just a fluke.

Can they come back with any sort of excuses—you know, maybe that the lava was unusually insulated and took thousands of years to cool down instead of weeks, or anything like that?

No, because Coe and Prevot, both very well-respected in this particular field, did an excellent job in their paper. They checked their results in several different ways and covered all the angles. So the response of other people in the same field has been cautious acceptance. There was a cautious review in *Nature* which basically accepted the work, but rather reluctantly.

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Have you spoken to any evolutionists about this?

Yes. I spoke to Coe directly in several phone calls, and we have corresponded by letter a few times. I didn't explain to him that I was a creationist because I found that that can cut off communications rather abruptly. I asked Coe one time how others in the field were receiving it, and he said, 'They don't want to believe it.'

Across the world recently there has been a lot of brouhaha about the 'bumps' in the 'big bang', saying that they have proved the 'big bang', there is no room for God, or else it is 'like looking at God', and so on. What's the reality? What are in fact these 'bumps' or ripples about which the media is talking?

The bumps are tiny fluctuations in the intensity and wavelength of microwave radiation that is coming to the Earth from all directions. This radiation is characteristic of heat waves from a very low temperature object, about 2.74 degrees above absolute zero. This radiation is very uniform and it is almost too uniform to allow the 'big bang' theory to work. Recently, they found tiny variations of about 30 millionths of a degree from point to point in the sky and that may be enough to allow them to redeem that aspect of the 'big bang' theory, though it still has some serious problems.

It always strikes me that many people don't realize that just because you find something that agrees with a particular prediction of one model, even though that's encouraging for the model, you can't really talk about 'proving' something that happened so long ago.

Yes, and it depends on what the competition is. If there is another theory that makes the same predictions, then it is not proof of either theory at all. It merely says that both theories are still in the running. And there happens to be another theory which is coming up fast as the main contender—it is a creationist theory that I have been working on for a number of years, and it also predicts this microwave radiation, with its tiny bumps.

Yes, I remember the audience in Melbourne who heard of your theory was fascinated. One man said 'I've had my horizons stretched—by about 20 billion light years.' It was particularly exciting to see the potential for explaining the progressive red-shift, the problem of how light gets to us from distant galaxies in a short time and so on.

It's a theory which starts from taking the Bible very straightforwardly and, in particular, some often-overlooked verses which relate to how God made the cosmos. And I take that information from the Bible and crank it into Einstein's general theory of relativity and out comes a completely different cosmology than the accepted cosmology of the 'big bang'. I've been working on this theory for a number of years and the mathematics is part-way done but not complete. Furthermore, it's not been peer reviewed officially by other creationists or anyone else. So this is still preliminary information. But it is very encouraging to see the way things are coming out, and I hope to present this theory at the International Conference on Creationism in Pittsburgh in 1994.

I recall your also saying that some Russians have an alternative explanation (for the bumps) that was published some time ago?

Yes, two astrophysicists named Sunyayev and Zeldovich in 1971 published a theory suggesting that there might be bumps in the microwave background—the same size as the ones observed—which would not be produced by the source of the radiation, but would be produced by large clouds of gas in the cosmos through which the radiation would come. This would mean that the bumps are actually a very ordinary mundane thing, and would mean that the radiation itself would be much smoother at the source than the 'big bang' theorists would like.

In view of the near-religious fervour with which this 'big bang' news was greeted, I suppose that the sort of information you just gave us, pouring cold water on it if you like, wouldn't

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be too popular?

Yes, I sent a little article to the journal *Nature* for their technical correspondence section. Basically it said, ‘Hey fellows’ haven’t we forgotten about this much more mundane explanation that Sunyayev and Zeldovich raised?’. I corresponded back and forth with them several times, but the bottom line seems to be that they are reluctant to publish it for reasons that they do not want to explain.

Australian audiences were fascinated to hear you say that about 90 per cent of all the processes that one could use to measure the age of things actually favour a young world.

Yes. That’s true. I estimate that there are probably several hundred processes that one could use to get an idea of the age of the Earth. Only a few dozen, at most, of these processes seem to give you billions of years. The other 90 per cent of those processes give you ages much less than billions of years. So it seems like it would be good science to go with the flow of the 90 per cent of the data, and use as a working hypothesis that the Earth really is young and then to try to find explanations for the other 10 per cent of the data. That whole process seems to be a much more scientific approach than the one that is taken by evolutionists. Basically, they concentrate on the 10 per cent of the data, and that’s the data you’ve always heard about. Such as the light travelling from distant galaxies and the radiometric dating techniques, and a few other things like that.

The paper by yourself and geologist Dr Steve Austin, showing that the sea would be many times saltier if it was really as old as evolutionists say, seems to have been particularly carefully worked out. What do evolutionists say to that?

Well, Steve and I corresponded and spoke with many different evolutionists as we were writing the paper, and the bottom line, after much dust was raised, was always that they did not have a good explanation as to how the bulk of the sodium needed to get out (to preserve the ‘long ages’ idea) could have left the ocean.

There was a commentary (in the conference proceedings) on our paper by Dr Clarence Menninga [a theistic evolutionist geologist associated with Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan]. He has written on this matter of the sea’s salt. He was almost our ideal critic. Basically, it seemed to both Steve and me that Dr Menninga made a very serious mistake in logic and we attempted to show that in the published rebuttal. So if the reader wants to know just what kind of responses evolutionists have made, I think Dr Menninga’s was fairly typical, and I invite them to check that out. It was not well thought out in our opinion.

So no evidence has been forthcoming to refute your conclusion about the young age of the oceans?

Right. In our article we specifically challenged Dr Menninga and other people like him to produce hard data which would tell us how sodium might get out of the ocean. And there was not a shred of such data in Dr Menninga’s reply when he discussed this matter either formally or informally. He was unable to provide such data.

This is the same Dr Menninga who co-authored the well-known theistic evolutionary book, *Science Held Hostage* (with Howard Van Till and Davis Young as his co-authors) which heavily denigrated the young-Earth creationists. I recall the chapter on sea salt in which they claimed that it wasn’t possible to obtain a date from salt accumulation.

What I would say is that I wrote Clarence Menninga a letter, and Davis Young also when I found out about that chapter in their book, and I challenged them on it, to produce data. After considerable going back and forth, Dr Menninga acknowledged in a letter to me that he had no data, and that he had basically been going on statements of other evolutionists. But Steve and I had already talked

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to the other evolutionists and we found that they had no data either! So basically, that whole chapter of that book, which rather arrogantly chastized young-Earth creationists for not doing their scientific homework, was written by a person who had not done his scientific homework.

It's sad that such a book, which turns people away from trusting the Bible, has been written. You would state that the facts of science don't contradict the Bible's account of a young world?

Oh, not only do they not contradict it, but they strongly support a recent creation and go very strongly against the idea of billions of years that the theistic evolutionists uphold. So, both the facts and the Bible are on the same side and they are on the side of the young-Earth creationist.

Finally, how many professionally active scientists would also hold to Genesis creation?

I'm part of a fairly large scientific community in New Mexico, and a good number of these are creationists. Many don't actively belong to any creationist organization. Based on those proportions and knowing the membership of the Creation Research Society, it's probably a conservative estimate that there are in the US alone around 10,000 practicing scientists who are Biblical creationists.

That's encouraging. Dr Humphreys, thank you very much.

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Dr John R. Baumgardner ***Associate Professor of Geophysics (United States)***

EDUCATION

B.S., Texas Tech University, Lubbock, 1968

M.S., Electrical Engineering, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, 1970

M.S., Geophysics and Space Physics, University of California, Los Angeles, 1981

Ph.D., Geophysics and Space Physics, University of California, Los Angeles, 1983

An interview with plate tectonics¹ expert ***Dr John Baumgardner***

by Carl Wieland and Don Batten

First published in:
Creation 19(3):40-43
June - August 1997

John Baumgardner (B.S., M.S., Ph.D (UCLA)) is a geophysicist employed at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. His work involves detailed computer modeling of the structure and processes of the Earth's interior, as well as a variety of other fluid dynamics phenomena.

Q: Dr Baumgardner, some say that because of continental drift (the idea that the continents have broken apart and moved thousands of miles) one has to believe in 'millions of years'.

JB: Well, I believe there is now overwhelming evidence in favour of continental break-up and large-scale plate tectonic activity. The acceptance of these concepts is an amazing example of a scientific revolution, which occurred roughly between 1960 and 1970. However, this revolution did not go far enough, because the Earth science community neglected and suppressed the evidences for catastrophism — large-scale, rapid change — throughout the geological record. So the timescale the uniformitarian scientists today are using is dramatically too long. The strong weight of evidence is that there was a massive catastrophe, corresponding to the Genesis Flood, which involved large and rapid continental movements. My conclusion is that the only mechanism capable of producing that scale of catastrophe and not wrecking the planet in the process had to be internal to the Earth.

I am persuaded it involved rapid subduction (sinking) of the pre-Flood ocean floor, pulling the 'plates' apart at the beginning of the Flood, and was probably associated with the breaking up of the 'fountains of the great deep' described in Scripture.



A 1993 *New Scientist* article spoke highly of your 3-D supercomputer model of plate tectonics.²

JB: There are to my knowledge three other computer codes for modeling the Earth's mantle and so on, in the world. These other three use a mathematical method not so well suited for the modern parallel supercomputers. The one I developed uses the finite element technique and performs very well on the new, very large supercomputers. So, many of my colleagues are recognizing it as the most capable code in the world.

Last year NASA funded this effort as one of the nine grand challenge projects for the next three years in their High Performance Computing and Communication initiative, and are supporting two post-doctoral researchers to collaborate with me to improve it, and apply it to study the Earth.

This code is comparable to what are called general circulation models for the atmosphere and oceans, which are some of the largest codes in the world in terms of how much machine power they consume. It's got lots of physics in it to model the details of the mechanical behaviour of the silicate rock inside the Earth. My present focus is to make the representation of the tectonic plates even more realistic. So the code is in an ongoing state of development, but it's come a long way in the last 15 years.

We understand you've shown that as these floating blocks of rock push down into the material below, things get hotter, so the 'slipperyness' increases and there's a runaway effect. The faster they sink the hotter they get, so the faster they can sink.

JB: Yes—rock that represents the ocean floor is colder, and therefore denser than the rock below it and so can sink into the Earth's interior. And the properties of the rock inside the Earth, especially at the high temperatures that exist there, make it possible for the colder rock from the Earth's surface to peel away and sink in a runaway manner down through the mantle — very rapidly.

So this 'happens' on your computer model all by itself, from the laws of science — over a short time-scale, not millions of years?

JB: That's correct. Exactly how long is something I'm working to refine. But it seems that once this sinking of the pre-Flood ocean floor (in a conveyor-belt-like fashion down into the Earth, pulling things apart behind it) starts, it is not a slow process spanning millions of years — it's almost certain that it runs to completion and 'recycles' all of the existing floor in a few weeks or months.

You're part of a team of top creation scientists³ which is developing a model of catastrophic plate tectonics based on this mechanism, which believes the continents broke up (from a single landmass) during, not after the Flood as some have proposed.

JB: Yes. There is compelling evidence from the fossil-bearing sediments on the continents that the breakup occurred during the time these sediments were being deposited. We are convinced that this 'continental sprint' as it's been called, was during the time of the Flood, and part of the mechanism for it.

How did you become a Christian?

JB: Primarily through a verse by verse Bible study in the Gospel of John, in a college Sunday School class when I was 26 years old. It focused on the question of who is this Jesus Christ, and is he authentic or not? I had little church background prior to that point, but a lot of scientific training. I was well schooled in evolution, and it took several months before I started to realize the problems with this idea. Later, I was exposed to the evidence for a young Earth and realized that the case for it was indeed solid.

Why is six-day, recent creation important?

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JB: I believe it's a pivotal issue in regard to the reliability of God's Word. It ultimately bears on the authenticity of Jesus, because Jesus put his stamp of authority on the writings of Moses, which taken at face value, indicate that the original Earth was a perfect world, one which included man and woman, one in which there was no death. There were no carnivorous animals — all the animals and man were given the green plants to eat. To make sense of the history of the world as the Bible lays it out, does not allow for millions of years, but does require that there be a catastrophe which destroyed all the air-breathing land life except for that preserved in Noah's Ark. So I believe there is no negotiation possible on this question.

So did your current interest in plate tectonics, and continental drift, arise out of your Christian faith?

JB: Entirely. I recognized that this was probably one of the most burning Bible apologetics issues in my century, and as far as I could see there was no one working on it. I sensed the call of God actually. While giving lectures on creation/evolution at university, I realized one of the biggest deficiencies in the creationist position was this lack of an alternative geological model, in particular one accounting for large-scale tectonics. I was 34 when I went back to get a Ph.D. in a field that I previously had not had a single course in. I believe Christians with scientific talent need to be encouraged — just like they're encouraged to become missionaries — to go and get the credentials and the training they need, and work at a professional level in these fields. God has opened incredible doors for me and others.

We published a careful exposé of the claims made by a Ron Wyatt, and more recently by one Jonathan Gray, concerning an alleged 'Ark site' — an almond-shaped formation in Eastern Turkey. In trying to attack our article, they often quote statements from you supporting this possibly being the Ark site. This was before your research at the site caused you to definitely conclude this could not be the Ark. They say you now oppose their claims for fear of losing your job.

JB: Ron's claims here are just as bogus as his claims about that site. Far from hiding my creationism, I'm well known for it (especially through letters in the local newspaper) in this scientific community, which has more Ph.D.s per capita than any other place in the US. My employer and my colleagues know exactly where I stand.

You gave a poster presentation on this 'runaway rapid continental drift' mechanism at the American Geophysical Union meeting in 1994, so at least some of the 6,000 scientists there would have seen it. What was the feedback?

JB: Many people were interested in the numerical techniques I used for such a calculation, because it's a significant computational challenge. Almost no one seemed to appreciate the implications of it. Actually, this concept of 'runaway subduction' [rapid sinking of the 'plates' as described earlier] has been in the literature for over 30 years. It was picked up in the geophysical community in the early 1970s, but for some reason the interest disappeared. People in my field are not ignorant of this possibility, it's just not seriously explored.

Why do you think that is?

JB: Well, there's no real motivation to pursue it. Some toyed with the idea that such runaway effects might have been involved in recent volcanism in the south-western US. But in their framework, they're not really looking for worldwide effects.

So their framework of thinking is really like blinders, preventing a full consideration of all the relevant evidence?

JB: That's correct, exactly. The same kind of uniformitarian 'glasses' prevent them from giving much

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attention to the evidences for catastrophism in the sedimentary record. Such basic philosophical biases profoundly affect the way science approaches problems and weighs the evidence. So it's not simply 'facts speaking for themselves' — the framework one starts from can and does profoundly affect the conclusions that are drawn.

Dr Baumgardner, thank you very much.

SEAFLOOR ‘ZEBRA-STRIPE’ DON’T MEAN SLOW AND GRADUAL.

THE mid-ocean ‘ridges’ are undersea mountain chains with volcanoes at the boundary between two ‘plates’ of the Earth’s outer shell. It is believed that here, molten magma from below can well up as the plates move apart, making new oceanic crust — a process called ‘seafloor spreading’. As the new crust cools down, it ‘freezes’ within it the direction of the Earth’s magnetic field at that time.

When instruments measuring magnetism are towed (on the ocean surface) across these ridges, they detect bands of alternating magnetic direction, like a ‘zebra-stripe’ pattern, with each side of the ridge mirroring the other. This is interpreted to mean that as new seafloor had gradually formed on each side of the ridge, the Earth’s magnetism had slowly reversed many times, over millions of years. However, Dr Baumgardner says this pattern does not mean the spreading was slow. He says,

‘From an estimate of the viscosity of the outer core, where the currents associated with the Earth’s magnetism exist, there is no reason why the magnetic field can’t reverse rapidly. Moreover, there is field evidence that it has reversed rapidly, within weeks.⁴

In addition, drilling the sea floor has shown that, regardless of the overall direction of the magnetism detected from the surface, the magnetic direction within a drill core frequently varies widely.⁵ This is less consistent with slow spreading than with a rapid welling up of new magma during a period of rapid reversals; the magma in contact with the surface will reflect the direction at that time, but by the time the deeper magma cools a few weeks later, the direction has switched again — and so on for deeper levels.

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4. R.S. Coe, M. Prevot and P. Camps, New evidence for extraordinarily rapid change of the geomagnetic field during a reversal, *Nature* **374**:687–692, April 20, 1995. The finding (by highly respected experts in paleo-magnetism) of ‘astonishing’ rates of reversal, has now been duplicated more than once.
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Danny R. Faulkner - Professor of Astronomy (United States)

EDUCATION

B.S., Bob Jones University, Greenville, SC, 1976

M.S., Clemson University, Clemson, SC, 1979

M.A., Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, 1983

Ph.D., Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, 1989

'He made the stars also ...'—Genesis 1:16 An interview with creationist astronomer Danny Faulkner

by Carl Wieland and Jonathan D. Sarfati

First published in:
Creation 19(4):18–21,
September–November 1997

Dr Danny R. Faulkner has a B.S. (Math), M.S. (Physics), M.A. & Ph.D. (Astronomy, Indiana University). He is Associate Professor at the University of South Carolina — Lancaster, where he teaches physics and astronomy. He has published about two dozen papers in various astronomy and astrophysics journals.

CW/JJS: Dr Faulkner, how did you get interested in astronomy?

DF: Well, I can honestly say there hasn't been a time in my life when I've not been interested in astronomy. I recall being three or four years old, looking up at the sky, being amazed at what was up there.

Many people have this image of an astronomer, sitting there each night staring into a telescope.

There really aren't any who spend all of their time looking through telescopes. The few research astronomers who do spend a good deal of time — they have to analyse the data they collect, write it up, plan future observations. So even the 'full-time researchers' probably only spend about two months of the year actually observing. Most astronomers, like myself, have an academic job teaching in university or other related jobs and we do research when we can. Usually I get in seven to fifteen nights a year at a local observatory and a few more when travelling elsewhere.

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How did you become a Christian?

I had a conversion at age six. My father was a minister of a small church and just as I can't remember not being interested in astronomy, I can't remember not going to church.

Some teach that the ‘big bang’ theory of how the universe evolved is such an obvious fact that we should accept it as if it had been written in the ‘sixty-seventh book of the Bible’.

That's absolute rubbish. I'm really concerned with people who put that much faith in the ‘big bang’. It is the overwhelmingly dominant model, and they've had a few impressive predictions, like the background radiation. But it has many problems — they keep changing the model to make it fit the data we have. As a Christian, my biggest concern is that it doesn't agree at all with the Genesis account of how the world came to be, and my big concern is that when you make that the fingerprint of God, as it were, then when the ‘big bang’ is discarded, what does that do to Christianity?

Genesis teaches that the Earth was created first and then the sun, moon and the stars were created three days later. Is there any observation in your field of astronomy which would disprove this, or make it difficult to believe?

No. Most astronomers as well as geologists argue that the universe is aged 20 billion years, and the Earth ‘scarcely’ 4.5 billion years old. All that's really built upon a lot of indirect evidence and arguments — evidence that could very easily be interpreted other ways, and there are some other astronomical suggestions that the solar system and the Earth and the rest of the universe are not really that old at all.

Can you give us some of these?

First, comets disintegrate too rapidly to have been in their present orbits for all those billions of years. So evolutionists theorise about a shell of comets, an ‘Oort cloud’ too far out to see, to act as a way to ‘restock’ the inner solar system with comets every so often.

However, there's no scientific reason to believe that there really is an Oort cloud. The so-called Kuiper belt, closer in, has been put forward as a theoretical source of shorter period comets. However, even if there are comets in this region, it doesn't solve the problem for the evolutionists, because the Kuiper belt would still be needed to resupply the Oort cloud after a while.

Then there is the moon — due to tidal friction, this is slowly spiraling away from the Earth, which is slowing down its rotation. If you calculate back a billion and a half years ago, the moon would have been in direct contact with the Earth. So that is a very strong indicator that the moon can't be even a third as old as the claimed 4.5 billion years, and it is probably vastly less than that.

Also, theory suggests we should find plenty of, say, million-year-old supernova remnants, but we don't find any — though there are many that are thousands of years old. And that is a very startling result if you really believe in a universe that's millions of years old.

How old do you think the universe is?

Probably six to eight thousand years.

Have you ever doubted what the Bible teaches about recent six-day creation?

Not seriously. I may have gone through a brief period when I was in high school or so, due to encountering people who were into theistic evolution, but then I got a copy of one of Henry Morris's early books. Then I learned more and more about other scientists who believed in a recent creation.

Why is it important to believe in this?



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Well, we have a very clear indication from Scripture that the creation really took place in six ordinary days. And if you think it didn't, then you are going to have to ask the question, 'How do you *know* that it didn't happen that way?' Good Biblical exegesis will simply not allow for a much greater length of time. And once you decide you are going to let 'science' dictate how you are going to interpret Scripture then there is no end to it. I recently read about former U.S. president Jimmy Carter, quoted as saying that he believes in the Virgin Birth but he doesn't believe that the world was created in six days. I think if asked why not, he would say, well, because of overwhelming scientific evidence. And I think I would reply to that, the overwhelming scientific evidence is that a virgin birth is not possible. So be consistent on this point; one's a miracle, so is the other. If you don't believe in recent six day creation then it opens the door to serious doubts about the Virgin Birth, about the Resurrection; those would also be scientific 'impossibles'.

What about the argument that the universe must be old, because light would take millions of years to get here from distant stars?

That has long been the biggest challenge for creationists. There have been several suggested answers — one from Australia around 13 years ago was [Barry] Setterfield's possible drop in the speed of light. When I first encountered that I thought it was a pretty good idea, but there are a lot of consequences of that and I don't any more think it is the answer. Perhaps the most common idea is that God created the light in transit. I have a real problem with that one. For example, when a distant supernova explodes, there is all sorts of detailed information in the light — the speed of expansion, what isotopes are involved, even sometimes a reflected light echo from nearby gas. Yet if the light was created 'on its way', all this is phony information — nothing like it ever occurred. This reminds me of a fellow named Gosse who was saying over 100 years ago that God created fossils inside the Earth ready-made. I think this 'light created on its way' idea is a first cousin of Gosse's notion.

So what idea do you like?

I got really excited with the cosmology which Russ Humphreys presented three years ago in Pittsburgh. It's the first serious attempt that young-world creationists have offered as an alternative for first of all the universe itself — cosmology — and second a very detailed explanation for the distant starlight issue.¹ I think that's very impressive, and even if it turns out that Russell's not right he's certainly leading the way in that kind of work.

What about stars claimed to be forming today?

Stars supposedly condensed out of vast clouds of gas, and it has long been recognised that the clouds don't spontaneously collapse and form stars, they need to be pushed somehow to be started. There have been a number of suggestions to get the process started, and almost all of them require having stars to start with. This is the old chicken and egg problem; it can't account for the origin of stars in the first place.

Stars are not very complex, and so-called 'stellar evolution' (though I don't necessarily accept all of it) is a different critter from biological evolution. So I don't have a problem with the idea that a cloud of gas, created initially by God in a special unstable condition, or compressed by a shock wave from a nearby exploding star, might collapse under its own gravity and start to heat up to form a new star.

The Psalmist writes that the heavens declare the glory of God. What do you see as the best evidence for that?

I think the universe is a mighty beautiful place — I view God as the supreme artist. Then we see that there are a lot of incredible and unique things about the Earth which make life possible. For example, as far as we know, liquid water only exists on the Earth. We see water in vapour form in the atmospheres of several planets, in stars and the material between them. We've identified water in solid

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form — on Mars, on asteroids and comets, possibly even on Mercury. But the only place we know for sure² that there is *liquid* water, one of the essential ingredients for life to exist, is on Earth. Even if it were proven elsewhere, liquid water would still be an amazingly rare and precious commodity that the Earth has in abundance.

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1. See Dr Humphreys' popular book *Starlight and Time* for a lay and technical explanation of this model.
2. Note that there is now doubt about the claim of ice in moon craters (*New Scientist*, June 14, 1997, p.13). Dr Faulkner said to us after the interview that the alleged evidence for subsurface liquid water on Europa, one of Jupiter's moons, is much more speculative and indirect than most think.

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An eye for creation: An interview with eye-disease researcher Dr George Marshall, University of Glasgow, Scotland

First published in:
Creation 18(4):19–21
September–November 1996

Dr George Marshall obtained his B.Sc. (Hons.) in Biology at the University of Strathclyde in 1984. He conducted research into bone marrow cancer at the University of Sheffield for three years until invalidated out with a serious, normally incurable illness. He was dramatically healed of this in November 1987 and soon obtained an M.Med.Sci. from Sheffield. He then worked at the University of Manchester before taking up a post at the University of Glasgow in 1988. He obtained his Ph.D. in Ophthalmic Science at Glasgow in 1991 and was elected to chartered biologist (C.Biol.) status and to membership of the Institute of Biology (M.I.Biol.) in 1993. He is now Sir Jules Thorn Lecturer in Ophthalmic Science.

Question: Dr Marshall, you wrote to us to comment on the article Seeing back to front which appeared in the March–May 1996 issue of *Creation* magazine. What was your comment?

Answer: I pointed out that the principal reason as to why the eye cannot be regarded as being wired backward (as some evolutionists claim) was hidden in a footnote in your article.

Would you care to elaborate?

The light-detecting structures within photoreceptor cells are located in the stack of discs. These discs are being continually replaced by the formation of new ones at the cell body end of the stack, thereby pushing older discs down the stack. Those discs at the other end of the stack are ‘swallowed’ by a single layer of retinal pigment epithelial (RPE) cells. RPE cells are highly active, and for this they need a very large blood supply—the choroid. Unlike the retina, which is virtually transparent, the choroid is virtually opaque, because of the vast numbers of red blood cells within it. For the retina to be wired the way that Professor Richard Dawkins suggested, would require the choroid to come between the photoreceptor cells and the light, for RPE cells must be kept in intimate contact with both the choroid and photoreceptor to perform their job. Anybody who has had the misfortune of a hemorrhage in front of the retina will testify as to how well red blood cells block out the light.

Then what do you think of the idea that the eye is wired backward?

The notion that the eye was wired backward occurred to me as a 13 year-old when studying eye anatomy in a school science class. It took me two years of lecturing on human eye anatomy to realize why the eye is wired the way it is. The idea that the eye is wired backward comes from a lack of knowledge of eye function and anatomy.

How do you react to the notion that the human eye is the product of evolution?

The more I study the human eye, the harder it is to believe that it evolved. Most people see the miracle of sight. I see a miracle of complexity on viewing things at 100,000 times magnification. It is the perfection of this complexity that causes me to baulk at evolutionary theory.

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Can you give our readers some idea of just how complex the eye is?

The retina is probably the most complicated tissue in the whole body. Millions of nerve cells interconnect in a fantastic number of ways to form a miniature ‘brain’. Much of what the photoreceptors ‘see’ is interpreted and processed by the retina long before it enters the brain.

A computer program has allegedly ‘imitated’ the evolution of an eye. Do you accept this?

Those who produced this model would acknowledge that the model is such a gross oversimplification that it cannot be cited as a proof. May I quote a colleague’s reaction (Dr John Hay, B.Sc.(Hons),, Ph.D., M.Sc., C.Biol., F.I.Biol.):

‘Computer simulation of evolutionary processes such as that described have three important flaws. First, the findings imply that the development which is being measured over so many generations is independent of development of other structures which are necessary for function. Second, the changes observed from the simulation are dependent on the original data input which clearly is consequent to human design of the sequences/regions to be worked on and also the program(s) which are used for the simulation. These are not, therefore, random. The third aspect of all this is that there is translation error in such simulations involving computer hardware/software. This can take the form of electronic error in single bits which are coding for a particular digit. Over many loops in this performance, intrinsic error can be magnified considerably. Was the simulation repeated using different PCs etc.? One feels that these three arguments are essential to any computer simulation package of evolutionary processes.’

‘My first point indicated that even if there is an eye, it will be useless unless the organism has the neural and/or the mental processes to utilize information perceived by the eye. How can a chance mutation provide this complexity in several different structures? The argument has usually been that there is a plausible intermediate series of eye-designs in living animals, e.g. Euglena has an eyespot; other organisms have a “cup” which acts as a direction finder.’

‘However, the organism which defies this evolution is Nautilus. It has a primitive eye with no lens, which is somewhat surprising considering that its close relative, the squid, has one. This organism has (apparently!) been around for millions of years but has never “evolved” a lens despite the fact that it has a retina which would benefit from this simple change.’

What exactly does your work involve?

Lecturing to doctors in medicine who have specialized in ophthalmology and are attempting to gain fellowship with the Royal College of Ophthalmology (FRCOphth). However, my main remit is research into eye diseases using a combination of transmission electron microscopy and immunocytochemistry, a technique that uses antibodies to locate specific proteins such as enzymes.

Do you believe that accepting creation as portrayed in Genesis is essential to your Christian faith?

Yes! On not literally accepting the Genesis account of creation one is left with a major problem — what Scriptures do you accept as true and what Scriptures do you reject as false? Only by accepting the whole of Scripture as the inspired Word of God does one avoid this dilemma. There are Scriptures that are a source of stumbling to the intellect. My practice is to ‘pigeon-hole’ them temporarily and never allow them to be a stumbling block to my faith. It’s amazing how many of these knotty problems have subsequently resolved themselves. Thus Genesis creation may initially appear to be hard to accept, but it strikes me that evolution is equally if not more problematic to believe.

How useful do you find *Creation* magazine?

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Its principal value is that it challenges what is uncritically accepted. Watch any TV program involving nature and you would think that evolution is an established fact. People get bombarded with this so often that they accept it without thinking. *Creation* magazine makes people realize that it is only a proposal and not fact. There are numerous places in my hospital where I can leave copies on coffee tables to get people to think for themselves.

What advice would you have for Christian students, or for Christians in a science course or teaching situation?

- First, recognize that science can become a ‘religion’ in its own right. Scientists say something, so the general public (the ‘worshippers’) accept it without question. Scientists are much more cautious about one another’s findings.
- Second, science is not static. The science of today is quite different in many ways from the science of yesterday, and will probably bear little resemblance to the science of tomorrow. People once believed in ‘spontaneous generation’ which could be ‘proved’ by putting an old sack and a few bits of cheese in a dark corner. Mice spontaneously generated out of the sack. We laugh at such notions, but I suspect that in a hundred years’ time people will laugh at some of our scientific notions.
- Third, one can still become an eminent scientist without accepting evolutionary dogma; the ability to produce sound science in the laboratory is not diminished by one’s stance on creation.

Dr Marshall, thank you very much.

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Professing creation science

An interview with Professor Walter Veith

by Carl Wieland and Jonathan Sarfati

First published in:
Creation 22(1):36–38
December 1999 – February 2000

Dr Walter J. Veith, B.Sc. (Hons), M.Sc. (cum laude), Ph.D., is a (full) Professor at the University of the Western Cape (Republic of South Africa) where he holds the chair of Zoology.

Ours is an age of incessant pro-evolution media tub-thumping. Some have even declared that ‘all of biology’ depends on the truth of evolution. So it was refreshing to talk to Professor Veith (pronounced ‘fight’), a zoologist of the highest academic rank, who is firmly convinced of the truth of Biblical creation.

When we asked how he became a Christian, he said:

‘It’s a long story, but I was an evolutionist, and an atheist. I started to get interested in the subject of Biblical prophecy—for example, prophecies in the book of Daniel, chapter two. They were written long before the events portrayed there, and the kingdoms came in succession just as it says. And the Dead Sea Scrolls seemed to confirm the authenticity and antiquity of the Book of Daniel. So I started to get interested in the rest of Scripture, including Genesis.’

Dr Veith said that he had already been undergoing some ‘evolution’ himself — he started off as a classical Darwinian ‘gradualist’, believing that evolution happened by the slow accumulation of little changes. But because the fossil record does not show creatures gradually changing into others, he was drawn to the later idea that evolution must have happened ‘in spurts and bursts’. He noticed also that evolutionists were conceding that in the so-called Cambrian rocks, supposedly not long after the dawn of multi-celled life:

‘Even the chordates were there before they were supposed to be. Articles were appearing in the literature about “explosive evolution” in the Cambrian, in which there were already chordates, the phylum to which man belongs. So basically it was just one logical step to believing in Creation.’

NATURAL SELECTION

There were other problems with evolutionary theory to which Walter Veith’s training and experience alerted him. For instance, natural selection. He said:

*‘The very name “selection” implies that you’re choosing between two or more variants. So that means that the end result is extinction of one in favour of the other. **Natural selection never increases the number of variants; it only decreases them.** So my problem with it was, “how does a mechanism that makes less and less end up making more and more”?*

‘The answer obviously is, it doesn’t. That leaves chance mutations as the only source of the new information. You have to have all these new genes coding for new features, all interacting precisely

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with one another, continually arising as animals get more complex, by chance. To believe that, you have to have a lot of faith. It's certainly not something I see in my work as a zoologist.'

Some fascinating comments by Dr Veith concerned the tremendous built-in ability of some animals to adapt to changing conditions, much too rapidly to have anything to do with any proposed evolutionary mechanisms or millions of years. For example, island deer have been seen to respond to a scarcity of resources by decreasing their body size, by as much as two-thirds. He also pointed out:

'Naked mole rats, if the ecological circumstances get tough, respond with a whole host of drastic rearrangements of their genetic material, so-called "jumping genes" doing their thing. This creates a far greater variety in the offspring, which of course has an effect on selection.'

'I think that organisms were endowed with a great capacity for variation, and that we haven't begun to figure out all the mechanisms in the latent DNA. Evolutionists have tried to write this DNA off as leftover "junk", but it is increasingly recognized as playing an important (though still largely unknown) role.'

AFTER THE FLOOD

We asked Prof. Veith whether such built-in mechanisms for rapid variation could be the remnants of mechanisms from the original kinds which, after the Flood, enabled populations such as the original 'dog kind' to rapidly diversify into wolves, coyotes, dingoes, etc? He replied:

'Absolutely. A lot of the rearrangement can simply come about by playing different tunes on the same piano, as it were. There are organisms where there appears to have been a fusion of chromosomes, but basically the same information is there, just the order in which it is arranged is different, which has tremendous effects on the organisms themselves.'

So what happened after he became a believer in creation?

'When I started lecturing to my students (about creation evidences) at my previous university, it caused havoc, and I had to leave because of it.'

How about the present university?

'It's still very secular and evolutionistic, but it's much more tolerant of other views. They're a bit reticent to let me lecture on the question of evolution, but I get opportunities to put the counter view. The occasional creation/evolution lecture after hours is normally well attended and appreciated. The students here tend to have more religious roots, so they are not as evolutionarily inclined. We have a large number of the previously disadvantaged community, and when people have been through tough times like they have, there tend to be closer ties with God.'

RACISM

Here was an obvious opportunity to raise the subject of apartheid, etc. Dr Veith agreed totally that if people had taken the Genesis history of mankind seriously, they would have realized that we were all closely related, anyway, so the differences between 'races' must be trivial (which is now confirmed by genetic and molecular studies). He said:

'The paradigm of evolution (even in its pre-Darwinian manifestations) is one of the root causes of racism.'

We asked him about the way in which some in the former South African regime had actually tried to base their racism on the Bible. Dr Veith replied,

'Yes, and that is a gross distortion of the Scriptures. My Bible tells me that God made all people



from one man [Acts 17:26] and that the Gospel is for every nation, tribe, and people [Rev. 14:6].

'Some even used the account in Genesis about the "curse on Ham" to justify discrimination. But it was not on Ham, but on Canaan [Genesis 9:25–26], and there is no evidence whatsoever of any discrimination on the basis of race — on the contrary, that is against the whole thrust of the Bible.'

ANIMALS WITHOUT DEATH?

With his experience in ecological matters, we asked Dr Veith about a common argument raised against the clear Biblical teaching that death and bloodshed among animals² only commenced after the Fall of Adam. I.e., that looking at today's world, it appears that one needs death in order to have a finely balanced food chain.

'But that's looking at what we have today, not what we had in the beginning. We only have a fraction of the flora and fauna that were there at first — the fossil record bears that out. We don't know what animals ate in the past. Tooth structure is not a good indicator. The panda bear is classified on the basis of its tooth structure as a carnivore, but it eats bamboo. An animal that has the tools for the original diet may also find them suitable for a more carnivorous diet if a need arose. There are many examples of that. With the destruction of northern hemisphere forests by acid rain, for instance, animals like chipmunks, normally seed-eaters, will now eat animals run over on the road.'

'New Zealand's kea parrots started to attack and eat sheep. They have the same talons and beak structure as a bird of prey but weren't using them for this until their food source ran out. And most bears — even fish are only eaten by them at the time of the salmon run, because there are no berries around in that early season. Later, they become 70–80% herbivore, even though they have the "equipment" to be carnivorous.'

'Even the venom apparatus in snakes may have been used to inject an enzyme to soften food. So, many things may not necessarily have been designed for killing other animals. But it does indicate in the Bible that God restructured some organisms.'

'I think He used the existing genetic material and just reorganized the way it was expressed. For instance, a thorn is a modified leaf, just curled tightly upon itself. So the gene didn't necessarily change; the way in which it was expressed changed. Or perhaps some latent genetic information switched on after the Fall.'

PLAYING GOD

Dr Veith's current research appears to be showing that herbivorous animals fed with large amounts of animal protein are in danger of osteoporosis from excess calcium excretion.³ He said:

'They lock up these animals and feed them anything from edible plastic to manure and ground-up animals. That's one of the factors behind the spread of mad cow disease,⁴ one of the things I am working on. People treat farm animals like commodities, because they think they are just chance accumulations of evolved genes. So if you think an animal doesn't have everything it should have, why not just play God, and take a couple of genes from something else and add them? Animals were also created for man's pleasure and companionship, not as mere food factories. Today, there is of course also the opposite side of the evolutionary coin, the animal rights movement, which elevates animals to the level of humans, since all are seen as just chance evolved entities.'

We asked him if, in the light of man's dominion mandate over other creatures in Genesis, he would have problems with all forms of 'genetic engineering' in animals. He said:

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'No. But I would have a major problem transplanting genes that totally changed the physiology. For example transgenic pigs, where the gene for human growth hormone is engineered into pigs. You get very large pigs, but they are also incredibly diseased — because these are not "add-on" genes, they alter something integral to the normal developmental process of the animal.'

'You need proper research to be able to make the decisions as to where to draw the line.'

Dr Veith is also convinced about the evidence for a young world, and a global Flood. He said:

'I gave a lecture at the University of Cape Town once, and presented the evidence from my slides that the famous Yellowstone petrified "forests" were not a succession of separate forests over vast ages, but were the result of a catastrophic event.'⁵

'The geologists were so furious they exploded and called me a liar, that such research had never been done. Knowing where it had been published, I asked them, "What journal would you like it to be published in?" They said, "If it was in something like The Journal of Paleontology it would have been acceptable." I said, "That's exactly where it is, and you'll have a copy on your desk."⁶ So I sent them a copy, with the article by a creationist scientist. And the next day they came back and said, "But it says nothing about a world-wide Flood." I said, "Exactly. If it said it was a world Flood, nobody would ever publish it. But it's clear that these logs were deposited by massive catastrophism.'"

We asked Dr Veith for a final comment to leave with readers. He said:

'Read Genesis just as it stands. There's a lot of evidence to favour the words written there. For evolution and long ages, there's nothing but propped-up theories that have to be re-proped and re-proped every so often to be maintained. But God's Word is timeless.'

REFERENCES AND NOTES

1. Since no new information is added, this has nothing to do with 'fish to philosopher' evolution, for which one needs processes capable of adding new information.
2. Only creatures which have the *nephesh* ('soul' or psyche) have life in the way in which the Bible refers to it. So plants, for example, may 'die' biologically, but do not die in the Biblical sense. The same is probably true for bacteria, fungi, and perhaps even insects.
3. This calciuresis appears to be caused by the fact that animal protein has more sulfur-containing amino acids.
4. The disease can be spread when infected animals are ground up as part of the feed for other cattle.
5. Sarfati, J., The Yellowstone petrified forests, *Creation* **21**(2):18–21, 1999.
6. Coffin, H.G., Orientation of trees in the Yellowstone petrified forests, *Journal of Paleontology* **50**(3):539–543, 1976.

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Standing firm: An interview with Raymond Jones

A leading scientist's life shows how 'radical' ideas can lead to the greatest breakthroughs

by **Don Batten and Carl Wieland**

**First published in:
Creation 21(1):20–22,
December 1998–February 1999**

LEUCAENA, THE SHRUBBY tree introduced to Australia's seasonally dry tropics to increase beef production, caused the cattle grazing it to become sick and thin. Dr Raymond Jones, who recently retired from Australia's highly respected government scientific body, CSIRO, after 38 years of service, is best known for solving this problem.

This, combined with Dr Jones' other achievements in improving the productivity of the tropical grazing industries, caused CSIRO chief Dr Elizabeth Heij to describe him as 'one of the top few CSIRO scientists in Australia'. Among the awards he has received are the CSIRO Gold Medal for Research Excellence, and the Urrbrae Award, the latter in recognition of the practical significance of his work for the grazing industry.

Dr Jones was Officer-in-Charge of the CSIRO Davies Laboratory, Townsville, and Regional Research Leader. He is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science, the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering, and the Tropical Grasslands Society of Australia. He has published about 140 research papers.

DB/CW: Dr Jones, you apparently met a lot of scepticism from other scientists about the rumen microbe idea to detoxify *Leucaena*.

'That was disappointing to me. Scientists, too, can be very parochial. I had lots of opposition. It was an accepted "fact" that rumen bacteria were the same all over the world. Even though I had shown they were not, they said it was impossible. I had papers rejected without addressing the issues they contained.'

How would you react to people who say that evolution must be right because most scientists agree with it?

'I don't think it's very sensible to say that. Major breakthroughs in science often occur when people don't believe what the rest believe. Science progresses as new ideas replace old ones. It's the radicals who often make the breakthroughs.'

Are the microbes special to the ruminants?

'Yes, a ruminant couldn't live on roughage without the bugs, because these digest the tough cellulose fibre in the plants the animals eat. And the bacteria are mostly highly anaerobic [do not like oxygen], and can only live in the rumen. The animal needs the microbes and the bugs need the animal. It's a good example of design. Evolutionists would argue it's "co-evolution", but I don't believe

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the incredible ruminant digestion system is the result of countless accidental mutations which just happened to parallel each other in the bacteria and the animals.'

Dr Jones is well known, and respected, for his stand for Christ in his profession. He became a Christian at the age of 17, before he went to university ('fortunately', he says). His conversion was due to the faithful work of the town greengrocer, who ran a kids' club. Raymond led his gang to break up the greengrocer's meeting, but ended up (eventually) being converted.

Raymond believed in evolution before he was converted. Then he tried to believe that God directed evolution, but he realised that this contradicted the whole idea of evolution—that it's due to chance mutations. As he studied the Bible's teaching on redemption, he became increasingly sceptical of the evolutionary ideas being taught at university. This caused him to look seriously at the evidence. He said, 'As I looked at the evidence—trying to be a dispassionate scientist—I could not find the evidence for the multitudes of intermediate forms which should exist if evolution was true.'

Dogmatic statements are made that students must be taught evolution because without it science would fall apart. They even claim evolution has great practical value.

'In my experience, I've never seen that. Many scientists might speculate in their papers about how a certain result relates to evolution. But I don't see that it's the driving force that enables breakthroughs, or that it features much in most scientists' daily work. Is having an evolutionary paradigm more enabling of research? I don't think so. In fact, believing in an almighty all-knowing God, rather than chance, behind everything could be more of a driving force for your scientific work. It gives you confidence that something will be found when you search, because behind it all is a mind greater than your own — "thinking God's thoughts after Him" [to quote Kepler].'

How do you see the widespread indoctrination in evolution affecting society and people's ability to respond to the Gospel?

'I think it's a major factor. It's a very powerful way of getting rid of God altogether because evolution is about chance, not purpose.'

What about the widespread belief in millions of years of death and suffering before man appeared, sinned and caused the Fall?

'It is very difficult, if you can accept that, to relate it to the message in the Bible that through sin, death came into the world. Christ died because Adam brought death into the world. It's difficult to see how that could fit the idea of millions of years of death and suffering before man sinned.'

Do you have any advice for young budding scientists?

'If they are Christians, continue to go on with the Lord and trust that He will reveal His will to you. Honour the Lord in all things. I found that the Lord honours those who honour Him [1 Samuel 2:30].'

'My advice to young scientists is to observe, observe, observe. This is the big thing. When we have so much that's done for us by computers, it's very easy to lose observational skills. In my research it's been observation on a wide scale that enabled me to understand the systems, and pick up leads to follow and reach solutions.'

And not be blinded by the prevailing paradigms, or ways of thinking?

'True. It's very easy to have paradigms that swamp you, but that are wrong and misleading.'

What about the six creation days? There are many people who say, 'I don't believe in evolution, but I don't know about six days.'



'I accept the Biblical account of six ordinary days of creation. But humanly speaking, it's over this time situation, in areas outside my own field, like geology for example, that I have the greatest difficulty reconciling the data. On the biological side of evolution, I've no qualms, no difficulties whatsoever. But I don't believe it's irreconcilable.'

'We need to remember that paradigms, frameworks of thought which dominate a particular area of science, have been known to mislead. God is all powerful, so He can do anything. So, yes, I believe in six days, as the Bible clearly says.'

How long have you been receiving *Creation* magazine?

'Many, many years. I read it from cover to cover. I am delighted with its regular, updating information, shedding new light on various aspects of the debate. I recommend it to others. I enrolled a scientific colleague and friend in South Africa to receive the magazine. When he got the first one he immediately wrote to thank me for sending it, and said how much he was enjoying it.'

Thank you, Dr Jones.

THE LEUCAENA STORY

Leucaena, a legume, is a shrubby tree which grows well in the seasonally dry tropics. It remains nutritious during the dry season, when most other plants lose much of their feed value. However, *Leucaena* contains a toxin which caused animals which grazed it in Australia to get sick.

Dr Jones discovered that goats in Hawaii ate *Leucaena* without problems. He suggested that perhaps the bacteria in the rumen (a special 'stomach' where the food is pre-digested by microbes in animals such as cattle, sheep and goats) were different in Hawaii. They were capable of breaking down the toxin, thus accounting for the lack of toxicity of *Leucaena* in Hawaii.

Other scientists scoffed at the idea that the microbes could be different and he could get no funding to check out his idea further. So Dr Jones was convinced he was right and paid his own expenses* to go to Hawaii to follow up on the theory.

Subsequently, with funding, Dr Jones took Australian goats and Australian grown leucaena to Indonesia where some goats had been discovered which could eat *Leucaena* without problems. He and his colleagues transferred some rumen fluid from the Indonesian goats to the Australian goats. Within two days the amount of toxin in the urine of the treated goats declined dramatically and they thrived. The theory was proven!

Eventually the microbes, isolated from goats in Hawaii, were shown to be new to science and named *Synergistes jonesii* in his honour. Their introduction to Australian ruminants proved to be successful ... and the rest is history. As Dr Jones says, 'It turned ratbag animals into healthy ones.' This discovery is worth millions of dollars per year to Australia, and is increasing as more *Leucaena* is planted.

* Subsequently reimbursed by CSIRO.

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Dr Ian Macreadie

Creationist molecular biologist and microbiologist

Dr Ian Macreadie is a highly regarded Australian researcher in the fields of molecular biology and microbiology. Author of more than 60 research papers, he is a Principal Research Scientist at the Biomolecular Research Institute of Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), and national secretary of the Australian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

In 1997 he was part of a team which won the CSIRO's top prize, the Chairman's Medal. In 1995 he won the Australian Society for Microbiology's top award, for outstanding contributions to research.

Creation in the research lab: An interview with leading Australian molecular biologist and microbiologist Ian Macreadie

by Carl Wieland and Don Batten

First published in:
Creation 21(2):16–17,
March–May 1999

We knew Dr Ian Macreadie to be a highly respected scientist at Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)¹. He is at the forefront of research in a field which, in many minds, is strongly linked to evolution. So it was significant to hear him say:

'I've always believed the Bible's creation account. It's beyond my comprehension that things could have just developed from nothing, and that we could have developed from "ape" ancestors.'

Dr Macreadie said that during his education, evolution was just taught as 'one of the options'. However, he said:

'even though nothing much has changed since then in the way of scientific advances, now we are barraged with information presenting it as undisputed fact.'

Apart from a slight wavering in his teenage years, Ian has been a committed Christian since he was about 10, after going forward at a crusade. He first heard an *Answers in Genesis* speaker in about 1990, at a church meeting. Some time later, he accepted our invitation to speak in his specialty area of science at one of our major seminars. He says:

'Creation is an issue that is certainly relevant to the Gospel. Evolutionist thinking is one of the factors which keeps many people from even recognizing the existence of God.'

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We asked him about the idea that fossils, with all their implied death and bloodshed, existed millions of years before man. He said, ‘You really can’t have death before the Fall, which means you can’t have death before man.’ Ian sees the authority of the Bible as a foundational issue. He said, ‘I think every Christian needs to take that on board right from the start — we’ve got to accept the Bible as God’s Word.’

We asked Ian about the evidence for creation in his own field. He said:

‘Evolution would argue for things improving, whereas I see everything falling to pieces. Genes being corrupted, mutations [mistakes as DNA is copied each generation] causing an increasing community burden of inherited diseases. All things were well designed initially.’

THE ORIGIN OF AIDS

As one of the leading AIDS researchers in the southern hemisphere, Ian was in a position to comment about viruses. He said:

‘I actually don’t believe God created viruses as separate entities, I believe they were a part of the DNA in cells. Some evolutionists put viruses down as a predecessor of cells, but that doesn’t work, because they need to have the machinery of cells to reproduce. I actually see viruses as genetic garbage, having escaped from cells way back, as a result of mutation, environmental damage — part of the Curse on creation [Genesis 3]. I would predict from that theory that we should find pieces of “virus” DNA in the human genome (DNA). And that’s starting to be found.’

A virus, being not much more than a packet of DNA, could jump from being hosted by one species to another. So did AIDS emerge from green monkeys, as one often hears? Ian replied:

‘The semi-immunodeficiency virus in African green monkeys is certainly the closest thing to the AIDS virus, but we really still don’t know. It’s interesting — you’d think if we were so smart about man’s alleged evolutionary origin, we’d be able to pick where this recently emerged virus came from.’

Molecular biologists have made some awe-inspiring discoveries, but how much is really known? Ian told us that all of the 6,000 genes in the DNA of a ‘simple’ yeast cell have now been mapped out. The function of only about half of these is known, he said, but probably less than 5% would be known in terms of a full understanding of the 3-D structure of the resultant protein (the molecule that is coded for by a particular gene). He said:

‘Interestingly, you can have all the components together, but you can’t yet create even a yeast cell, which has only a fraction of the genes of a human cell. Even with all the people working on it today, it has, so far, defied complete description — it’s just amazingly complex.’

So could such complexity all be coded for in the large, but finite, amount of information in a yeast’s DNA? Did he think we only needed to fine-tune our understanding about the information systems in living things, or were there likely to be some real surprises in store?

Dr Macreadie indicated that he doubted that the current understanding would prove adequate. He said:

‘There have been lots of surprises in yeast; for example, some of its genes are the same as some in plants, but with a totally different function. I’m sure there will be many more surprises in human cells. In yeast, it’s been discovered that the same stretch of DNA can code for different proteins, simply by shifting the “reading frame”, starting to read the code from a different point — an amazingly ingenious way of storing extra information. And we’ve known for some time how a gene can be “cut and pasted” to make several different proteins. And if that wasn’t mind-boggling

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enough, we've recently found that a protein, made by one gene, can also be spliced and directed to two different locations in the cell.'

MUTATIONS — NO EVOLUTION

We knew Dr Macreadie would be very familiar with the fact that the occasional mutation can make it easier for a microbe to survive attack by a particular antibiotic, for example. Since the belief that mutations can add new information is crucial to the idea of microbe-to-man evolution, we asked about this. He told us:

'All you see in the lab is either gene duplications, reshuffling of existing genes, or defective genes (with a loss of information) that might help a bug to survive — say by not being able to bind the drug as effectively. But you never see any new information arising in a cell. Sometimes a bacterium can "inject" information into another one, so it's "new" to that bacterium — but that information had to arise somewhere, and we just don't observe it happening. It's hard to see how any serious scientist could believe that real information can arise just by itself, from nothing.'

Ian McCreadie acknowledged that being a Biblical creationist 'has led to a lot of difficulties in dealing with other scientists'. Persecution, we asked?

'I guess more ridicule. I think you've got to be selective about when and where to make a stand. Sometimes people in a group are just baiting you, waiting for you to put your neck on the line, and then not always being willing to give you a fair opportunity to present your point of view. Whereas one-on-one gives you more of an opportunity to talk through the issues effectively with people.'

We left the conversation greatly encouraged by Dr Ian Macreadie's stand for God's Word, while doing award-winning science at the highest levels of his profession.

NOTES

1. In this interview, Dr Macreadie is stating his personal opinions; he is not representing CSIRO, and claims no official endorsement of his statements.

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God and the electron: An interview with physicist Keith Wanser

by Carl Wieland and Jonathan Sarfati

First published in:
Creation 21(4):38–41,
September–November 1999

Dr Keith Wanser, B.A., M.A., Ph.D. is Professor of Physics at California State University, Fullerton. His research interests lie in fibre-optic sensing techniques, experimental and theoretical condensed matter physics, and basic theories of matter.

With over 30 refereed and 18 other technical papers and seven US patents in his track record, Keith Wanser would be justified in chuckling at the common accusation that ‘creationists don’t publish’, or ‘creationists don’t do real science’. A full Professor at a major US university, we were immediately struck by his warmth and humility.

In this age of physics superstars writing bestsellers, claiming to know the precise state of the universe billions of years ago, and even saying that physicists will soon know ‘the mind of God’, it was refreshing to hear Prof. Wanser bring things back to reality.

‘We don’t even know how to calculate, from first principles, something as basic as the speed of light, or Planck’s constant, the mass of the electron — things like that. These seem to just be “givens” from a Lawgiver. It was thought there should be only two or three such “basics” from which we could derive the rest, but it appears that there are vastly more — something like 28 at least.’¹

‘For every spectacular leap forward, like finding new particles,’ he continued, ‘there’s usually been a price to pay — more and more unknown parameters, with unknown relationships between them. It seems the more we find out, the more we realize how little we really know. Like Ecclesiastes 3:11 and 8:17 say, we can never find out all that God has done. I like what Einstein said, that it would be enough if we just understood the electron. In fact, when I get to Heaven, I’d like to get the chance to ask the Lord to tell me how the electron is held together.’

(Keith told us that, given our current understanding, there is nothing to hold the electron together. It should fly apart under its own electrostatic self repulsion).

Keith Wanser doesn’t talk of Heaven in some vague metaphorical way; for him it is a sure and certain hope. His trust is not in his intellect, nor in his good deeds, but in the shed blood of God the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Having received God’s forgiveness of his sins, Keith knows he can anticipate joy and peace with God throughout eternity.

The conservative church in which Keith grew up believed in a literal, six-day creation — and so did he until he went to college:

‘All those professors, who seemed to know so much, told me it couldn’t be that way. So I gradually became a theistic evolutionist. That led to my becoming morally adrift for some years, till I recommitted my life to Jesus Christ in 1976. Since then, I have studied a great deal of scientific

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evidence, and I am convinced there is far more evidence for a recent, six-day creation and a global Flood than there is for an old Earth and evolution.'

Keith Wanser knows how vitally important this issue is:

'The foundation for the whole Gospel is in Genesis — the Lord Jesus Christ clearly believed in a young Earth, a literal Genesis. If we mess with these foundational truths, when do we start taking the words of Jesus seriously? Recently someone said to me, "I believe the Bible is the inerrant Word of God, but I don't believe it can be taken literally." I was shocked. Maybe we can have a non-literal Virginal Conception, or a non-literal Resurrection, or ... where does it end?'

'It's desperately sad that so many church leaders have given their flocks a false sense of security, either by downplaying the issue, or by unscriptural dead-ends such as "progressive creation".³ I believe the Lord will bring these leaders to account. Even churches that believe in Genesis often don't equip their people with the answers available through ministries such as yours. They don't understand that kids today are being hit by these supposedly "scientific" beliefs that totally undermine Christianity.'

What did he see as the biggest difficulty for promoting creation today?

'Because the church in general failed to understand and confront this huge issue, it helped these beliefs to "take over". So there is now such a bias against literal Genesis and for evolution/old Earth, that people have stopped thinking for themselves. Phrases like "evolution is fact" or "everybody knows the world is old" are repeated like mantras — it's like a mindless thing that people have had beaten into their heads, so one has to undo years of conditioning by our culture.'

A father of two young children, Keith sees it as crucial to shield them from the anti-biblical conditioning coming from TV and elsewhere. Referring to a popular new 'cute monsters' game, he said,

'Even there, you have this insidious evolutionary brainwashing going on all the time — "Look how this one can evolve into something else", and the like.'

But he also thinks it is vital to give them positive creation materials like *A is for Adam*, to train them in thinking in a Biblical framework from the earliest age.

'Parents who ignore the extreme importance of this issue are often taken by surprise when their children grow up and abandon their faith — I see it often and it grieves me that so many people are unaware of the sad consequences of evolutionary thoughts and beliefs.'

Was it tough being a creationist at a secular university? Dr Wanser said,

'Well, now that I've got tenure, that means I can't be fired for simply believing in recent six-day creation and the world-wide Noahic Flood. If I had been outspoken on the issue before, I doubt I would have obtained tenure. But if you're doing good science, it makes it harder for your critics.'

RADIOMETRIC 'AGES'

Knowing that Keith was part of the creationist RATE⁴ group, we asked him about radiometric dating. He said,

'There's been some good work done by creationists lately, like revealing a fatal flaw in the assumptions behind K-Ar dating.⁵ I'm currently working on some very interesting stuff involving radiometric decay being non-exponential — at the level of things like quantum tunnelling. It's still in the early stages, but already I can say that over time periods that are short compared to the half life, the decay is not exponential, despite what is taught.⁶ This decay thing is actually very complex; there've been all sorts of assumptions made to keep it simple, some of which may

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not be valid.'

What arguments did evolutionists have with his work, we asked?

'Well, it's very hard to argue when the maths is there, and it comes out right. Actually it turns out that when you get the nucleus "excited", decay is going to be much quicker, making things look vastly "older". People have been talking recently about magnetic stars giving off big bursts of gamma rays; there are all sorts of ways that radiometric "clocks" could have been reset catastrophically, during the Flood for example.'

Professor Wanser made frequent reference to the work of the creationist physicist Dr Russell Humphreys, of Sandia National Laboratories, for examples of fruitful creationist science. An example is Humphreys' fulfilled written prediction, based on his model of the Earth's magnetic field, that volcanic rock would be found showing that past reversals of the field occurred extremely rapidly.⁷ He was also very impressed by the way in which Humphreys' creationist model of planetary formation predicted the strengths of the planets' magnetic fields.⁸ He said, 'There's no evolutionary model that has come anywhere close in that department.'

Keith Wanser also pointed to Russ Humphreys' creationist alternative to 'big bang' cosmology (explained for the layman in the book *Starlight and Time*, which also has a technical appendix) as a good example of productive creationist thought. (Humphreys uses the distortion of time in general relativity theory to explain how light could have reached the Earth from distant stars in a young universe.)

CHANGING LIGHT SPEED

Actually, light is a major specialist area for Dr Wanser. So what did he think of proposals that the speed of light has changed, affecting radiometric dating as well as starlight travel-time? He replied,

*'It's not really widely known that standard quantum electrodynamics predicts that the speed of light (**c**) is a function of the field strength, thus changeable in principle. I've been playing around with this for years, and while it's still heretical, some are starting to accept that **c** may not be some eternally immutable thing.'⁹*

Keith was familiar with the theories (including recent work) of Australian creationist Barry Setterfield, which have **c** declining from a huge initial value. He said,

*'I don't go along with Barry's statements on this; he's well-meaning, but in my opinion he's made a lot of rash assumptions. For instance, he has a whole sequence of things that have to be held constant just because his theory needs it, and he's certainly not come up with any real equations explaining anything. There is not a lot of mathematical and physical theory in his work, and there's a misunderstanding of many of the things that would have happened if **c** had been 10^{10} higher than what it is today.'¹⁰*

From what Keith told us in more detail, it appeared that the vocal humanist/skeptic critics of the Setterfield theory also needed some lessons in high-level physics. He went on to say,

'There are other reasons to believe that the speed of light is changing, or has changed in the past, that have nothing to do with the Setterfield theory. It's an exciting field — a very bright colleague of mine at the University of Colorado in Boulder has just completed some little-known but fascinating work in this area.'¹¹

Keith affirmed that the confident public image of the 'certainty' of the latest physical theories was a far cry from reality. He cited the 'big bang' as an example, particularly lately with 'quantum cosmology'.

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'They have to get matter out of energy. An experimentally established physical principle¹² shows that the only way you can do that is to end up with equal amounts of matter and antimatter. But all around us in the universe there is a huge preponderance of matter over antimatter. Instead of abandoning the "big bang", they conveniently hypothesized a way to violate scientific law, a fudge factor if you like. But this would make protons unstable, so for years they've been looking in vain for even one proton to decay. They haven't found it, and all indications are that the proton must be stable for a period of time much larger than previously thought possible, more than 1,000 billion billion times the assumed evolutionary age of the universe.¹³ This makes it completely impossible for the "big bang" to work.'

'The problem hasn't been pointed out much; it's there, but it's ignored in the hope that it will go away. The sad thing is that the public is so overawed by these things, just because there is complex maths involved. They don't realize how much philosophical speculation and imagination is injected along with the maths—these are really stories that are made up.'

'People look at the sort of science that put men on the moon, and they put these "big bang" theories in the same basket. They're unaware of all the speculation and uncertainty (even rule-bending) there is in physical theories of origins. It's a tragedy that evangelicals are being urged to "re-interpret" the Bible because of the so-called "certain facts of science" in this area. It is even more tragic that there are professing Christians who are promoting evolutionary notions of the "big bang" and galactic and stellar evolution as supporting the Bible and belief in God, while at the same time denying literal six-day creation and the global nature of the Genesis Flood.'

REFERENCES AND NOTES

1. Keith said, 'Many of these are associated with the masses of various "elementary" particles, such as quarks, W and Z bosons, and the coupling constants associated with strong and weak interactions.'
2. Both Dr Wanser and this ministry are aware that some parts of the Bible are plainly intended to be taken non-literally. However, Genesis is plainly historical narrative, meant to be taken literally, like the Resurrection. See R. Grigg, Should Genesis be taken literally? *Creation* 16(1):38–41, 1993.
3. This position is most commonly associated today with Dr Hugh Ross and his followers, with billions of years of death, disease and bloodshed before human sin.
4. Radioisotopes and the age of the Earth — this continuing project initially involved the *Institute for Creation Research*, the *Creation Research Society*, and *Answers in Genesis*.
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Coe, R.S. and Prévot, M., Evidence suggesting extremely rapid field variation during a geomagnetic reversal, *Earth and Planetary Science* 92(3/4):292–298, April 1989. Also *Creation* 13(3):46–50, 13(4):44–48, 1991.
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The Voyager measurements were 3.0 and 1.5×10^{24} J/T for Uranus and Neptune respectively. *Science* **233**:85–89, 1986; *Nature* **319**:174–175, 1986; *Science* **245**:1450–51, 1989.

Dr Humphreys had predicted field strengths of the order of 10^{24} J/T—see also Humphreys, Dr, *Creation Research Society Quarterly* **27**(1):15–17, 1990. The fields of Uranus and Neptune are hugely off-centred (0.3 and 0.4 of the planets' radii) and at a large angle from each planet's spin axis (60° and 50°). A big puzzle for dynamo theorists, but explainable by a catastrophe which seems to have affected the whole solar system – see Spencer W., Revelations in the solar system, *Creation* **19**(3):26–29, 1997.
 - See also Sarfati, J.D., The Earth's magnetic field: Evidence that the Earth is young, *Creation* **20**(2):15–19, 1998.
 9. ‘In fact,’ said Keith, ‘there are good reasons to believe that c might be drastically altered in the near vicinity of an electron; recognition of this might help to develop a viable theory for this particle.’
 10. As examples, assuming electron and proton mass and charge had remained the same, Keith cited ‘the almost complete disappearance of electromagnetic radiation, magnetism, and magnetic effects, including nuclear magnetic moments, Faraday’s law, and the Lorentz force. Such drastic effects would surely give a far different display of past events recorded in starlight than we see today.’
 11. *New Scientist*, July 24, 1999, pp. 29–32.
 12. The Law of Conservation of Baryon Number.
 13. *New Scientist* May 22, 1999, pp. 48–52.

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Dr Emil Silvestru: Creationist geologist/karstologist

Dr Emil Silvestru earned his Ph.D. from the Babes-Bolyai university, Cluj, Transylvania, Romania, (where he has worked as an associate professor) in karst sedimentology. A world authority on the geology of caves, he has published 27 scientific papers, six abroad. He was till recently the head scientist at the world's first speleological institute (*speleology* = the study of caves), and is now a full-time researcher with *AiG*.

Caving in to Creation: An interview with Romanian geologist and world cave authority Dr. Emil Silvestru

by Carl Wieland

First published in:
Creation 21(3):10–15
June–August 1999

Transylvania — to Hollywood-soaked Western ears, the name of this Romanian province is likely to conjure up haunting images of swirling mists, vampire bats, and black-caped aristocrats with thick Bela Lugosi accents.

Actually, the Count Dracula of Bram Stoker's original novel probably derived from a real figure of Romanian history, the mid-fifteenth century Prince Vlad. His father was Vlad Dracul,¹ so he was named Vlad Draculea (son of Dracul). Vlad junior earned his nickname, 'Vlad the Impaler', by his habit of thrusting people alive onto sharpened stakes. He is said to have approached the problem of poverty by inviting all of his country's beggars and paupers to a free feast — then he burnt down the building with all of them in it.²

Sadly, Romania has yet to recover from a more recent bout of despotic evil, perpetrated by the notorious communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu (1918–1989) prior to his overthrow in December 1989.

In a small Transylvanian town in 1954, Emil Silvestru was born into this shadowy post-war world of repression, fear and communist secret police. From the age of 12, he began to be fascinated by the numerous caves and other karst³ features in his region, which naturally led to the study of geology.

In 1979, after five years' study, he was awarded a Master's degree⁴ from the state university in Transylvania's capital, Cluj. During his student years, he had already begun to publish research papers on 'karstology'⁵ an interdisciplinary study of the limestone region and its features which had captured his youthful attention.⁶

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Following graduation, there was no point applying for a Ph.D. in geology. As Emil explains, until the 1989 revolution, ‘such things were decided by Ceausescu’s semi-illiterate wife Elena, who had decided against geology PhDs.’ So he spent the next seven years in geological exploration in northern Romania. He gained experience in the geology of certain types of ore bodies, and discovered several deposits amounting to about a million tonnes of lead/zinc ore.

In this time, he says,

I continued my speleological [cave] investigations, discovering karst processes during the pneumatolytic⁷ phase — a world first — and investigating many hydrothermal [hot water] caves as well.'

In 1986, he began work at the Emil Racovitză Speleological Institute (the world's first, founded in 1920). He says, ‘my hobby had now become my jobby (job + hobby)’.

His wife Flory, a former athlete in Romania’s national team, was a Baptist believer for many years before he was. He says,

This brought nothing but problems from the communist regime. I had already begun to doubt the atheist dogma I had been taught. It was through my scientific work that I came to realise that the order, beauty, and sense of fine humour with which the world is built cannot possibly come from chaos and randomness — I was sure there was a Designer.

And for a long time, that was enough for my inflated ego. I recall asking Flory, who was reading her Bible regularly, when she was going to finish “that book”. I believe it was then that God began to work on me.’

SECRET MEETINGS

Emil told me that even though watching Christian videos was illegal, it was very popular in a country groaning under communist repression. When Zefirelli’s film *Jesus of Nazareth* arrived in Romania on video, ‘secretly seeing it became a noble act of resistance to the regime,’ says Emil.

So I suddenly found myself going to remote places, sometimes isolated mountainous areas, often in poor peasants’ homes, invited to help show the film. Sometimes, up to three films in one night, The Ten Commandments and Quo Vadis in addition. We had no dubbing facilities, so I had to do the translation live, 47 times in all. After a while I was very familiar with the visuals, and I preferred facing the audience while translating. I couldn’t help but notice the profound impact all this was having on people.’

One night they had to travel to a secret location 46 km (29 miles) away. To minimize the chances of detection, Emil was taken there in one car, a Mercedes, and driven back in a different vehicle. He says it was ‘a mockery of a car — an old Romanian imitation of the Soviet Gaz. It took us five hours to get back. The outside temperature was minus 25 °C, so we were nearly frozen solid when we got back to my place.’

One night, still not a Christian, he was booked to do the translating after he had spent 4–5 hours surveying in a mine which, he says, ‘was so full of gases that the open flame of a carbide lamp would not burn. It was a funny situation that night — my brain was so gassed I could hardly do the translation!’

With so many meetings, there was a high risk of being caught by the secret police. ‘But God was in control,’ says Emil. Just a month after he transferred from the area for a new job, one such clandestine showing was raided, and the video recorder and tapes he had been using were confiscated.

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MIRACULOUS ESCAPES

God's providential care was also evident in what Emil calls 'several opportunities to leave this world.' In one, he was climbing a rock wall and fell, seemingly to his death. Yet even after a freefall of 20 m (65 feet), his fall was somehow stopped by his partner. In another, a huge rock falling 100 m (330 feet) was heading straight for him down a wall when it split into many pieces, none of which hit him or his colleagues.

Perhaps the most memorable was when Emil was wading through a narrow gorge. Massive boulders began falling from the top of the gorge, about 400 m (1300 feet) directly above him. Emil says,

'It is quite hypnotic to watch such an event from below. With the walls less than 4 m [13 feet] apart, and me waist deep in water, there was very little chance I would survive. Yet, it happened.'

'All this made me understand that it was unfair to attribute my survival to my good reflexes ... as a scientist I had to accept that "somebody upstairs" loved me. I started attending my wife's church regularly, and on one apparently ordinary evening in church, I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my Saviour. The truth is that the long years of my wife's silent prayers for me were answered. Without her, I would still be wandering around on quicksand.'

CHRISTIANITY AND SCIENCE

'Once I became a Christian,' Emil says, 'I knew I had to "tune up" my scientific knowledge with the Scriptures.' He briefly tried to maintain belief in an old Earth via a 'gap' theory, but this was an unsatisfactory compromise for a thinker like himself. He says,

'Although philosophically and ethically I accepted a literal Genesis from my conversion, at first I was unable to match it with my "technical" side.'

However, email discussions with qualified creationist geologists, creationist books, *Creation* magazine and especially the *Creation Ex Nihilo Technical Journal* helped him realise what he calls 'two essential things':

1. Given exceptional conditions (e.g. the Genesis Flood) geological processes that take an extremely long time today can be unimaginably accelerated.
2. The Genesis Flood was global, not regional.

Emil says,

'I had heard this before, but was unable to fully grasp its significance at first. It involved an incredible "brainquake" in changing my scientific paradigm.'

'These factors were immensely important in my conversion and my Christian life. I am now convinced of six-day, literal, recent, Genesis creation. That doesn't mean that there are not still some unanswered problems, but researching such issues is what being a scientist is all about.'

GLACIERS UNDERGROUND?

One of the fascinating aspects of his research work involves glaciers that accumulate underground. Romania has eight caves with important perennial ice deposits, including the world's second largest (75,000 cubic metres of ice in over 1,000 layers). After Emil managed to attract the famous Laboratory of Glaciology in Grenoble, France, the first drilling in a subterranean glacier took place, producing 21.3 m (70 feet) of core. Emil's interests include the formation and development of ice in caves, and the study of ancient climates preserved in the ice and other karst sediments.

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He says,

'Our Romanian-French team identified the radioactive isotope cesium-137 from the Chernobyl accident in bat guano in a subterranean glacier. In another cave, we found such residues from the 1963 Nevada H-Bomb experiments, in sediments at the bottom of a 12 metre-deep lake — the first such discovery in karst aquifers.'

The H-bomb findings were particularly surprising, since water can only get to the underground lake in question by seeping down through 250 m (more than 800 feet) of limestone. This suggests that the rates involved are much faster than previously assumed, although Emil is commendably cautious, saying that more data is needed from other caves.

Dr Silvestru says that in the Romanian karst, there is no real proof of caves older than the 'Quaternary', which 'greatly simplifies a creationist interpretation, since it is consistent with the Bible.' He believes that the currently prominent creationist modelling of the post-Flood Ice Age is an important tool in understanding the karst in a young-Earth framework.⁸

I asked whether he experienced any ridicule or persecution because of his strong stand on Genesis creation. He replied,

'Not really, for two main reasons. First, after so many years of almost compulsory atheism/ evolutionism, most people welcome Biblical creationism as a breath of fresh air. Second, God has granted me a professional status that practically bars any attempt to ridicule my creationist convictions. During public meetings on creation, even when academics are present, there are questions, yes, even strong arguments, but never ridicule. But I do believe that if I were very outspoken within our rather closed scientific community, many would reject or avoid me.'

Along with a few academics and others, Emil is involved in the embryonic national creationist movement, as well as in translation of creation books.⁹ One of the two existing groups, founded two years ago, is named after N.C. Paulescu, a Romanian creationist scientist who discovered insulin. Emil says,

*'unfortunately his discovery was made in Romania where there was little exposure to media. So a year later, two Canadians were credited with the discovery.'*¹⁰

Emil told me he would love to be able to devote himself to full-time creationist research, looking at such things as how a world with higher CO₂ (which may well have been the case before the Flood, and just after, before the Earth was revegetated) might affect limestone deposition and rates of karst formation — in addition to refining his scientific critique of radiometric karst dating methods.

So it was a real pleasure to be able to tell this world leader in his geological field that the *Answers in Genesis* ministries group would, stepping out in reliance on our supporters, fund his salary for such research work for the next year for a start.

CAVES, CLIMATE AND 'VAST AGES'

Cave geology expert Dr Emil Silvestru affirms that caves, which he says are post-Flood in origin, 'have proved to be among the best recorders of past climates, with an exquisite record which sometimes allows high-resolution reconstructions'. His work also involves the ²³⁴U/²³⁰Th dating of speleothems (those features such as stalagmites which grow in caves). This method, which is said to be accurate to within a resolution of only one thousand years (one ka), combined with the evidence of growth and lack of growth of speleothems during glacial and interglacial stages respectively is, he says, 'one of the most revered assets of evolutionists today. The precise (dare I say, sometimes too precise!) correspondence of these with Quaternary stages simply mesmerises geological professionals, who add to it such things as measurements of ancient magnetism, plus estimates of temperatures based on

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oxygen isotope ratios in speleothems and so on. But there is one big problem for someone like me, who has been going into caves for over 30 years; some of the speleothems, not thicker than 5–10 cm (2–4 inches) yielded “ages” over 200,000 years. Given what is known about karst processes, this is virtually inconceivable. The dates are way too old. This would mean that the whole duration of the Quaternary needs to be greatly compressed. Presently, I regard my “ datings” as merely confirming that speleothem growth fluctuated with the colder and warmer stages of the last stage of the Ice Age, not as accurate datings in any absolute sense.¹ Dr Silvestru explained to us that, even using such ‘way too old’ dating methods, no karstologists today would talk of ‘millions of years’ to form cave structures — even by conventional dating methods, the oldest accepted ‘date’ is about 600 thousand years. He has personal experimental knowledge of very rapid rates of growth — even lab vessels used to collect drip water have become covered in a thick layer of calcite rock within less than 10 years. Growth rates for stalagmites of several cm per year have been measured. When one does the calculations using only one mm/year (a very slow rate), even assuming that growth totally stops during the very cold glacial periods, then, says Dr Silvestru, ‘even the tens of thousands of years assumed by evolutionists would mean we should see many more massive stalagmites than we actually find’.

REFERENCES AND NOTES

1. Because he was a knight of the order of the dragon (= *draco* in Latin, *drac* in ancient Romanian).
2. Dr Silvestru told us that, ‘According to our history, he constantly impaled thieves and pick-pockets. Therefore, foreign visitors were amazed to find out that a purse full of gold left in the middle of the road would stay there for days, as nobody dared risk a “high rise”’.
3. Karst is a term which initially referred to barren regions of mostly limestone and dolomite, noted for spectacular and distinctive landforms, and with substantial underground drainage features — caves, underground rivers, etc. It has come to refer more to the entire geosystem, above and below ground — see also note 5.
4. This is the closest equivalent in western terms — it included a 60-page dissertation.
5. This discipline approaches karst as a geosystem. Dr Silvestru says, ‘Karstology therefore deals with all features (above and below ground, physical and biological) related to limestones, including, for example, the sources of most of the rivers reaching the limestones.’
6. There is some confusion between the Anglo-Saxon and Latin understanding of ‘karst’, which Romanian and French pioneers in this work, principally Dr Silvestru, are attempting to clarify with more rigorous geological terminology.
7. Pneumatolysis: the alteration of rock or crystallization of minerals by gaseous emanations from the late stages of a solidifying magma.
8. By Michael Oard and Dr Larry Vardiman.
9. Some of these are being published with financial help from the *Answers in Genesis* ministries group.
10. F.G. Banting and C.H. Best, in 1921.

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Dr Andy McIntosh: Creationist combustion theorist and aerodynamicist

Dr Andy C. McIntosh is a Professor (the highest teaching/research rank in U.K. university hierarchy) in Combustion Theory at Leeds University, U.K. His Ph.D. was in aerodynamics. A number of his students later worked for Rolls Royce, designing aircraft engines.

Dr McIntosh's recent book *Genesis for Today* (foreword by Ken Ham) is available from *Answers in Genesis*.

Flying high: An interview with Dr Andy McIntosh

by Chris Field

First published in:
Creation 20(2):28–31
March–May 1998

CF: Dr. McIntosh, what does your work involve?

AM: Anything which works and uses energy has to have power, so power generation is a very important matter. Whether it's coal or nuclear energy, we need to know how to use it carefully, efficiently and without danger. Now, it's the 'without danger' bit where I come in. I've done a lot of studies in explosions and hazards of various kinds.

Such as?

Like if coal is transported in ships, and is left too long with air able to get at it, then because there isn't enough room to get rid of the heat, the coal gradually heats up and you can have a fire at sea. It involves some interesting problems.

But you're visiting Australia to talk to other scientific people about applied mathematics, aren't you?

I enjoy playing around with the equations, but I really like getting my feet down to the ground and talking with real people about real problems. Leeds University is known all over the world for its interest in practical problems in the energy scene.

I'm part of a Centre of Combustion there which straddles three departments — physical chemistry, mechanical engineering, and fuel and energy, and it's my job to make sure that centre works. We have research seminars, and I track through students doing a year's Master of Science degree, for example.

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I understand that you're dubious about evolution?

I guess that's an understatement, Chris. I'm not saying that the studies of scientists who work on evolution theory are all wrong. It's just that they're starting with certain assumptions, and that's what needs to be exposed.

Can you give an example of a misleading assumption?

One of their basic premises is that you cannot have design, it's ruled out of court. Now to my mind it is crazy to dismiss something without even letting it be a possible option. Many aspects of nature show that creatures have been designed.

What's your favourite example?

Creatures which fly. I got here to Australia on a great big jumbo jet. I watched the careful maneuvering as it came down to land, as the great big flaps came out at the back, increasing the size of the wing to get more lift so as to fly at a much slower speed. I was struck by all the design that went into that wing in order to make sure it worked. Now, are we to say that the birds which come to land every day weren't designed? I have seen a photo in a book, of an aircraft landing at Hong Kong and underneath it is a falcon landing at the same time. Now as you look at birds and planes together, are you going to say that one is designed and the other isn't? I would find that scientifically preposterous.

We know that in order for modern flight to take place, countless thousands of man-hours and much high technology had to go into the design process.

Indeed — I would take issue with people like [atheistic Oxford professor] Richard Dawkins, with his view that flight somehow came about by chance, just because some creature took a jump, then mutation added bits to its structure, so it could jump further, and so on. It just doesn't fit. It's obvious that these creatures have not come about by chance and selection, but have in fact been designed.

What does the fossil record show about this?

You find that those creatures which are flying now and are also fossilized in the rocks were essentially the same then as they are now. There is no sign at all of any gradual evolutionary change. Butterflies are exactly the same in the fossil record. And yet it's claimed (I don't accept it at all) that they are hundreds of millions of years old. When it comes to birds, they're essentially, structure-wise, the same. And bats are exactly the same in the fossil record as they are today.

Why the particular interest in flight?

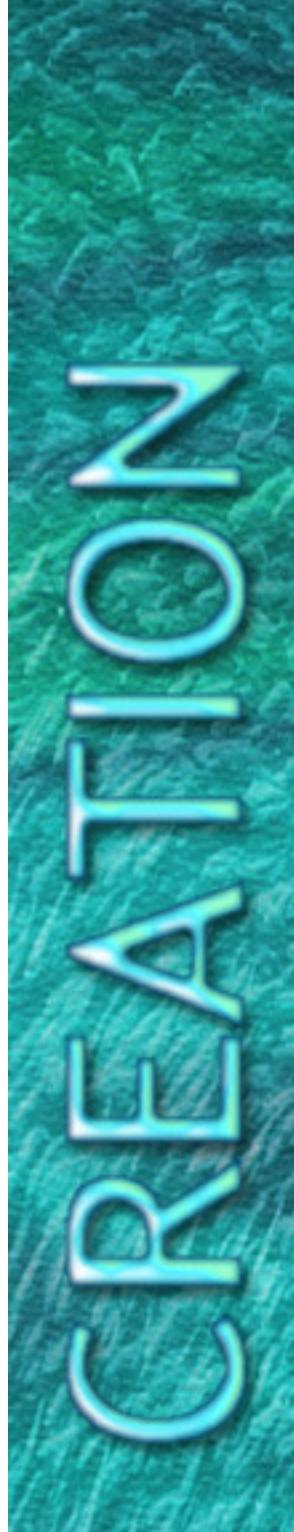
Well, I am originally an aerodynamicist — my Ph.D. was in an aerodynamics department. Bird flight in particular is remarkable; consider feathers. If you look at a feather under a microscope, you see the main stem, with barbs coming out to the left and right, and from these you have left-and right-handed barbules. Now the interesting bit is that the left-handed ones have hooks, and the right-handed ones have ridges.

That's so the feathers lock together.

That's right. The feather is made such that if you bend it, everything bends with it, and yet it's a very light structure. So the hooks catch the ridges and they slide over the ridges — it's a mechanical engineer's dream to have such useful, lightweight engineering. But if you have a sliding joint, you need lubrication. To do this the bird twists its neck around 180° and dips its beak into a tiny oil gland right down at the back of its spine. It then preens itself, wiping this oil all over its feathers, so that they join together nicely, and these sliding joints are oiled. That's a marvellous bit of engineering. So is the fact that birds, unlike us, have hollow bones. To be strong enough, particularly in the bigger

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birds, these lightweight bones often have cross-members. In aircraft we call the design ‘Warren’s truss’, but we copied it from birds in the first place.

So the incredible design in living things is a major objection to evolution?

Absolutely. I would say, frankly, that that’s the major scientific reason why I could not for a moment hold to evolution. Design is shouting at me everywhere.

What about Andy McIntosh the Christian?

Genesis gives us the basis for the only correct way to look at the world, because God has told us how everything came to be. We are not at liberty, as Christians, to think that there is a ‘both . . . and’ situation here. Evolution and long ages is completely contrary to what the Bible says.

That would sound radical to some.

Maybe, but it wasn’t radical a hundred years back. Genesis creation is in fact what our society was based upon, the whole of Western culture. Now we are very wrong to throw it overboard. Thomas Huxley [‘Darwin’s bulldog’ — Ed.] knew full well last century that the way to undermine Christianity was to attack Genesis. Of course, he was very successful in getting his own thinking to usurp the authority of the Bible, and we are now reaping the results.

What about the fossils — don’t they suggest a long time period?

In fact, I find it very difficult to believe that fossils formed slowly. The alternative way of looking at the rocks is to believe what the Bible tells us about a massive catastrophic Flood, and there is a lot of evidence to support that view. For instance, we have jellyfish as fossils. Now you’ve got to bury a jellyfish quickly in order to leave its impression behind. It just won’t last long enough to be slowly covered.

So you believe in a world created about 6,000 years ago, cursed on account of sin, then devastated by Noah’s Flood.

Absolutely. There’s nothing in real science (if you take all the assumptions into account) to contradict that view.

What would you say, as a physical scientist, about radiometric dating?

Something’s wrong with the radioactive dating methods. They’ve dated New Zealand volcanic lava which we know flowed last century and the result says it hardened millions of years ago. The same occurred with the lava dome that’s formed at Mt. St. Helens since the 1980 eruption. We can’t trust the methods — the assumptions behind them are clearly shaky. It’s a shame that some Christians today are being pressurised into doubting the Word of God, which is infallible, because of these fallible methods.

Dr McIntosh — thank you.

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Dr Edmond W. Holroyd, III: Atmospheric Science (USA)

BIOGRAPHY

Dr Edmond W. Holroyd, III did cloud physics and weather modification research for C.S.I.R.O. in Australia from 1971 to 1974. Since then (25 years) he has done similar work for the US Bureau of Reclamation, Denver, and expanded his work to remote sensing skills. In addition he is presently teaching a series of courses on remote sensing and image processing for the GIS department at the University of Denver. He enjoys helping to design and establish FM radio translator stations for the network of Colorado Christian University: KWBI-KJOL-KDrH.

EDUCATION

University of Rochester, NY, 1966 — B.S. in astrophysics

State University of NY at Albany, 1971 — Ph.D. in atmospheric science

Colorado School of Mines, early 90s — continuing education in geology

Clouds, coins and creation: An airport encounter with professional scientist and cre- ationist Dr Edmond Holroyd

by Steve Cardno and Carl Wieland

First published in:

Creation 20(1):22-23

December 1997 - February 1998

HAVING had help from US atmospheric scientist Dr Edmond Holroyd with reviewing articles, we were delighted to be able to catch up with him during a brief flight stopover at the airport here in Brisbane, Australia. Dr Holroyd (B.S. in astrophysics, Ph.D. in atmospheric science from the State University of New York at Albany) works for the US Government, involved in such things as remote (satellite) sensing, weather studies, cloud seeding, and measuring snowfall by radar.

Some aspects of Dr Holroyd's work are particularly highly regarded — he currently works with a Doppler radar system called 'NEXRAD' which has for years been calibrated for rain. It was long regarded as too difficult to calibrate it to detect snow, but Dr Holroyd has now written special software so it can be used for reporting snowfall. This has been successfully tested in two US states and will shortly be expanded to be used nation-wide.



Ed Holroyd told us that he grew up in a somewhat ‘liberal’ branch of his church. In due course he became a truly converted Christian, but he ‘just sort of accepted that God used evolution’.

While in Australia for a three-year stay after completing his doctoral studies (during which time he worked for Australia’s premier scientific organisation, the CSIRO, in the Division of Cloud Physics), Ed encountered his first ‘full on’ creationist literature. The most important book, he says, was Whitcomb and Morris’s *The Genesis Flood*. He says:

I didn’t like these new ideas, but I realized I had to pay attention to them because they were properly justified. It took me a decade of reading more creationist literature before I made the switch completely.’

He says that his ‘conversion to trusting what God taught in the Bible’ was helped also by Francis Schaeffer’s books, and seeing powerful, direct examples of God at work.

Dr Holroyd says that in the 1970s, he was discouraged by coming across some scientifically poor work by some defenders of creation — ‘all faith and no brains’. But in 1986, he attended the First International Conference on Creationism in Pittsburgh, where he was impressed by the quality of the presentations.

Dr Holroyd says:

Evolution has been strongly promoted by those people who want to deny any accountability to a Creator God. It is a stumbling block that prevents many people from even considering the claims and teachings of Jesus Christ, whom the Bible identifies as God the Creator Himself. The Gospel only makes sense in the light of Genesis — mankind created perfect in a perfect world, which was ruined by sin. Sin passed down to the descendants of Adam and Eve has permanently flawed all of us, and is the reason why we need the sacrifice on the Cross of Jesus Christ, the “last Adam” [1 Corinthians 15:45].

Dr Holroyd has been undertaking tertiary studies in geology of late, which is where his current interest in creation studies lies. One of the things he has written on extensively is a phenomenon called cavitation, which he says is very important in helping us understand how massive erosion would have taken place in the early stages of the Flood. He says:

When water less than 10 metres deep is flowing at very high speed (say 30 metres a second) and goes over a bump, it can turn into water vapour via the formation of tiny bubbles. These collapse again when the pressure is restored, and they do so at a supersonic speed which creates shock waves with incredible pressures. This pulverises the surface right next to where the bubbles are collapsing, so it can “eat” rock surfaces away much, much more quickly than normal erosion. In the laboratory, such cavitating water will even rapidly “eat” a steel surface.’

We spoke to Dr Holroyd about the well-known fact that where a lot of water vapour condenses, such as to make rain during Noah’s Flood, there is a large amount of heat released. Could clouds (in his area of expertise) be enough of a cooling factor to solve this ‘heat problem’? He said that the modelling is extremely complex — clouds are able to keep heat in like a blanket, but they also cool the Earth in two ways. First, they reflect the sun’s energy back into space, and secondly, they radiate their own heat energy directly into space:

The weather satellites that look in the thermal infrared band are sensing that heat going out into space. I haven’t worked through the numbers yet, but it seems clouds would have been a source of major cooling after the Flood.’

Dr Holroyd’s favourite evidence for creation is the uniqueness of the planets and moons of the solar system. He said,

'No evolutionary theory was able to anticipate all of the details revealed by the space probes. Whereas the only unusual prediction verified was that by Dr Russell Humphreys, a creationist scientist. He correctly predicted the strengths of the magnetic moments of Uranus and Neptune. It makes me think that God placed such an unsystematic variety out there so that we could never come up with a workable atheistic mechanism of their formation.'

Enquiry about the proposed *Answers in Genesis* museum in Kentucky received a vigorous ‘thumbs up’:

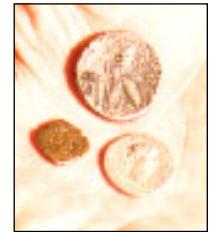
'I think it's great, it's needed in our country — to help get across the creation message to the general public, which doesn't have that much access to creation materials. And speaking of materials, I just love your Creation magazine — it's the best available in this field — I recommend it first above anything else.'

Dr Holroyd left us with this advice to young believers:

'There are many problems in science for both sides, evolutionists and creationists, but I am confident that creation, based on the Word of God, is the only way to go and will in the long run always produce better science.'

BIBLE MONEY

When he is not solving problems in atmospheric physics, one of Dr Ed Holroyd’s passions is collecting coins from Bible times. We were fortunate that he had some of his extensive collection with him in carry-on luggage when we chatted to him at Brisbane airport.



The small one is a bronze *lepton*. The ‘widow’s mite’ mentioned in Mark 12:42 would have been a lepton.

At the top is a tetradrachm or silver shekel. The 30 pieces of silver which Judas received were likely 30 of these. A shekel was the temple tax for two men. Images of foreign gods on coins were anathema to the Jewish priests, but all shekels from foreign countries had them. The least offensive were the ones minted in Tyre (such as this one, around AD 3, which features the minor Greek god Melqarth) or Syria. These two types were therefore the only ones acceptable in the Jerusalem temple. Matthew 17:27 records Jesus instructing Peter to catch a fish which would have such a coin in it to pay the tax for himself and Jesus.

The third is a silver denarius, a Roman coin from the time of Tiberius Caesar, emperor during Jesus’ public ministry. It refers to Tiberius as ‘PONTIFex MAXIMus’ (high priest). In the famous passage in Matthew 22:17–21 Jesus, asked (by his enemies trying to trap him) whether taxes should be paid to the Romans, calls for such a denarius (KJV: ‘penny’). He asks whose image is on it, and says, ‘Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.’ A denarius was the daily wage for a labourer (Matthew 20:1–16).

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Patrick H. Young, Ph.D: Creationist chemist and materials scientist (USA)

BIOGRAPHY

Dr Young received a Ph.D. in chemistry from Ohio University in 1984. After graduation he initiated an in-depth research program on the study of lyotropic liquid crystals where he received US patent as co-inventor of a Kevlar® polymer and process modification improving critical properties in high performance composites.

Since 1988, Dr Young has been active in the research and development of Mylar® film products for capacitor and thermal transfer media applications. Some of these products include; using MIE scattering theory to develop a polyester film material useful in the manufacture of photoresists, a copolymer film composition useful in flyback transformers and a high dielectric strength polyester film for capacitors that resulted in a U.S. Patent.

Dr Young's Christian background has also led him to do extensive studies on the subject of creation. His current interest involves the study of the time domain and how quantum theory and/or multidimensional string theories may be used to explain the Genesis account.

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry with Minors in Organic and Physical Chemistry — Ohio University.
- B.S. in Chemistry — University of Rio Grande.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- The tribological understanding of surface topography relationships to film handling.
- Electrical property improvements of polyester films.
- Tensile strength and thermal improvements in polyester films.

REPRESENTATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS

- High dielectric strength Mylar® product for film / foil capacitors using synthetically precipitated cubic inorganic particles resulting in a U.S. patent.
- Directed the development of a new product using MIE scattering theory that aids in the manufacture of Photoresists.
- Received a United States Patent on a Kevlar® polymer variation to manufacture acicular para aramides.
- Directed the development of a new product using copolymer polyester technology for high voltage flyback transformers.

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- Received the Donald F. Clippinger award for superior research by a graduate student in 1984.
 - Received DuPont's marketing excellence award in 1996. Highest award in the business unit.
 - Provided strong community support in a variety of voluntary leadership positions including Big Brother / Big Sisters, Mental Health and Recovery Services Board.
 - Voted one of the outstanding young men of America in 1989.
 - Voted one of the outstanding young men of science in 1993.
 - Two other patents pending.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Thin Film Technical Service Manager, Research Group Leader / Chemist — DuPont Films, 1984 – Present.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- The Characterization of High Performance Fibers using Infrared Microscopy. *Spectroscopy* **3**(9) 1988.
- Coated Films for A.C. Film foil Capacitors. Paper given at the *Capacitor and Resistor Technology Symposium* 1997.
- New Surface Topographies for PET Film Capacitors. Paper given at the *Capacitor and Resistor Technology Symposium* 1999.
- Intracavity Enhancement of Raman Peaks inside the Cavity of a Dye LASER, *Spectroscopy Letters* **16**(6):471–478, 1983.
- The Identification of Dropouts in Magnetic Media Using Infrared Reflectance Microspectroscopy, *Spectroscopy Letters* **23**(5):679–698, 1990.
- Developments in Video and DAT Dropout Analysis. Paper given at the *International Tape Association Meeting* 1989.

Bullet-proofing belief: An interview with research chemist Patrick Young

by Don Batten and Jonathan Sarfati

First published in:
Creation **23**(2):19–21
March–May 2001

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Meet a leading scientist whose work has included research on the material used in space-age applications and the bullet-proof vest—and who believes the Bible from cover to cover.

Dr Patrick H. Young, B.S., Ph.D., is a technical service manager at the DuPont Laboratories in



Ohio, USA. He is the holder of patents related to Kevlar® (which is used in bullet-resistant vests, for example) and Mylar® (the magnetic tape in video cassette recorders), with two other patents pending. His outstanding achievements have earned him awards and recognition, including being voted one of the outstanding young men of America in 1989, and one of the outstanding young men of science in 1993.

In today's violence-ridden times, television footage of police wearing bullet-proof (bullet-resistant is perhaps the more proper, but less used term) vests is familiar to many. Perhaps not everyone, though, knows that the bullet-proof material used in these vests is a synthetic fibre called Kevlar®, which is 10 times stronger than steel by weight. We recently spoke to a senior research scientist at DuPont, the makers of Kevlar®. Dr Patrick Young, though not the actual inventor of Kevlar® (that was a Dr Stephanie Kwolek), holds patents related to the processes of its manufacture.

He told us more about this fascinating material:

'Its strength lies in its chemical structure. It is spun as a liquid crystal, forming a very rigid rod polymer, and when it's oriented it's very stiff. That particular characteristic plus the fact that it really has no melting point (in fact, it decomposes before it melts) gives it flame-retardant properties. It's used a lot in aeroplanes for that reason, also in automobile brake and clutch pads. There are many different applications for Kevlar®, besides the one everyone thinks about — "bullet-proof" vests.'

Dr Young has extensively researched Kevlar's® bullet-proof characteristics:

'It is an interesting mechanism. Its chemical structure enables it to stop a bullet by flattening out and thus absorbing the impact energy.'

As pleased as Dr Young was to tell us of his work with bullet-resistant vests, it wasn't long before the conversation turned to something he considers much more important—namely, having a bullet-resistant faith. This leading researcher speaks passionately of his concerns for the many people who do not understand the fundamental importance to Christianity of the Genesis creation account.

'I run into many professing Christians who believe, for example, that "God used evolution to create". I'm flabbergasted that they don't understand that if you throw away Adam, the Fall and the original sin, then you throw away Jesus Christ and His reason for coming, and the whole thing falls like a house of cards.'

Patrick Young says:

'I was taught evolution in high school, and though I was raised in a Christian environment, nobody was standing up and opposing it, so it was kind of just migrating into my mind and staying there.'

He says he probably dealt with this by:

'trying not to think about it ... there were many other things on my mind, going through school, studying chemistry. My training in Christianity was more of a "New Testament only" thing, with emphasis mostly on Christian living. Thankfully, in the last 10–15 years, God has given me a hunger to go back into the Old Testament ... and I now know that Genesis is crucial to understanding the Gospel.'

In his daily work, Patrick sees the hand of the Creator. He says:

'The whole world of chemistry is a well-behaved world. If you understand the principles of it you can do a great deal to control it. To me, that's evidence of design and a designer right there! If all

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that came about by chance (as evolutionists claim), I would not believe that the world of chemistry would be as well-behaved as it is.'

Dr Young's comments are consistent with the thinking of the successful pioneer scientists, who believed that God is a God of order. Therefore, especially since we are made in God's image, we should be able to understand the world to a substantial extent. In fact, contrary to the common claims in the media and educational circles, this Christian/creationist view provided the very foundation of modern science. Dr Young affirms that his success in research chemistry is founded on this basic philosophy. And he is quick to acknowledge that for all man's ingenuity and breakthroughs in developing high performance man-made fibres, they yet fall short of the God-designed 'natural' fibres such as spider silk.

We are often told that 'no real scientist' disbelieves in evolution. So we asked this leading chemist, a 'real scientist' by any definition, what he thought of the evolutionary idea of life evolving from lifeless chemicals in some primordial soup. He said, 'I've read a great deal on that; it's clearly a gross over-simplification to state that if some simulated lightning is put into a beaker and creates some amino acids, you are on the way to making life. One needs to realize that to go further from this point your experiment would need to have developed only certain specific types of amino acids, either the dextrorotatory ("right-handed") or the laevo-rotatory ("left-handed") type—and guess what?! That doesn't happen—nobody has been able to do that, and so the "primordial soup" belief system has absolutely no scientific evidence to support it.'

Dr Young says:

'Probably 90–95% of the people who tell me they believe in evolution, when I ask them to tell me why, they cannot do so. They can't explain it in a scientific manner, but when they come across somebody who can explain Creation in a scientifically valid manner, they kind of just turn around and walk away.'

So why don't more scientists, with all their education, recognize the fact of the Creator? Dr Young is forthright:

'Most of the scientists I come across, I believe that they wake up in the morning, look in the mirror and see their god. I think there is a level of arrogance in the scientific community and that is probably the reason why they don't have the belief system needed for God—because they would first have to crucify that arrogance.'

'The key to a person's thinking stretches back to the foundations of their education'.

Dr Young is critical of the US public education system's handling of the creation/evolution debate, which, he says, 'attempts to brainwash children to go in a certain direction', i.e. undermining the very foundations of Christianity.

Little wonder, says Dr Young, that so many Christians today are ineffective when it comes to sharing their faith. 'The frozen chosen' he calls them, sadly—paralyzed through a lack of understanding of the foundational truths of the Gospel.

To reinforce his point, Dr Young draws an analogy between being effective as a chemist and being effective as a Christian:

'In chemistry, you need to first grasp the basic foundational principles. As a chemist, if I have that basic foundation of chemistry, then when I start actually doing the research, it's that foundation that makes things so much easier, so I can be much more creative. So, too, with Christianity; to be effective one must have a sound understanding of the foundations—and that means understanding Creation and Fall and their relevance to the Gospel. Sadly, teaching on Genesis is generally very

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poor.'

But he is greatly heartened to see that Christians are beginning to wake up to the importance of this issue. He says:

'I remember listening to Ken Ham in a seminar a few weeks ago; he did a phenomenal job on teaching a proper understanding of Genesis, and it was just amazing to see the number of people whose eyes were as big as saucers when they walked out of there! They said, "I really didn't know that!" — and they had been Christians for years.'

As Dr Young affirms from his own experience, the effect of a fuller understanding of Genesis and the Gospel not only helps make one's own faith more 'bullet-proof' but equips Christians with the confidence to go out and share the Good News with others, as the Lord commanded in Matthew 28:19–20.

He excitedly explains:

'As far as I am concerned now, my basic role in life is to be someone who follows God and His purposes, and God has placed me in a unique position in my work. I travel a great deal, interact with many people, and am able to speak about certain things, so I find openings to talk about some things that may plant "Gospel seeds".'

'I've always told my wife that I have an interesting ministry flying in a passenger aircraft at high altitude because I've got a captive audience—they can't go anywhere.'

At the end of our talk, Dr Young was warmly and spontaneously appreciative of the *Answers in Genesis* ministry. He said:

'I believe it is something that needs to keep on happening. I'll continue to cover the AiG ministry in prayer because I believe you are at the front line of those who are proclaiming the Word of God, so the devil will definitely keep on attacking your marvellous work.'

We felt privileged to have spoken to a strong Christian, passionate about sharing his faith, who also happens to be one of the leading industrial research scientists in the world.

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Professor Brian Stone: Creationist Mechanical Engineer

Brian Stone qualified with a B.Sc. (Eng.) and Ph.D. from the University of Bristol, and has been Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Western Australia since late 1981. He is the author of many publications in both engineering and teaching, and has won two UWA Excellence in Teaching awards — in 1990 and 1994 — and a UWA excellence in innovation in teaching award in 1996. In 1997 he won the inaugural Australian National Teaching Award for Engineering. Prof. Stone is also noteworthy for obtaining (with his two co-investigators) four CAUT National Teaching Development grants from 1993–1996 and a CUTSD grant in 1998 — no-one else in Australia has won as many such grants.

EDUCATION

- B.Sc. (Eng.) and Ph.D. from the University of Bristol

HONORS/AWARDS/ASSOCIATIONS

- UWA Excellence in Teaching awards 1990 and 1994
- UWA excellence in innovation in teaching award in 1996
- Inaugural Australian National Teaching Award for Engineering - 1997

Prize-winning Professor rejects evolution: An interview with Prof. Brian Stone

by Don Batten and Carl Wieland

First published in:
Creation 20(4):52–53,
September–November 1998

The glittering occasion at Australia's Parliament House in Canberra, the national capital, was reminiscent of an Oscar night. The short list of nominees for the 1997 Australian University Teaching Awards had been narrowed down from a larger list submitted by universities across Australia.¹ As the hopefuls waited tensely before the assembled political dignitaries, envelopes containing the names of winners in each section were opened.

Ten of the 11 individual awards in this first-time event were for specific subject areas, like engineering and science. Any one of Brian Stone's former students would have been delighted, but not surprised, when he was announced as the winner in the engineering section.

However, most observers would have been surprised to learn that Prof. Stone is a convinced Christian



who believes in and openly defends a literal Genesis view of creation.

As an engineering academic, Dr Stone is well aware of the need for people in his profession to have a rigorous foundational training in science. He says,

'Engineers are very much about applying the findings of science in a way that works, which means you have to first understand the science.'

In fact, when giving talks on creation and evolution, he is quick to point out, with only a hint of tongue in cheek, that, 'it wasn't scientists who sent man to the moon so much as it was the engineers'.

Brian says:

'If you define science as repeatable, reliable, observational fact, it's obvious that evolution doesn't really qualify as science. People make these huge jumps; they see these tiny changes happening today, and so they conclude that all life forms have arisen from chemicals by a continuous process over millions of years. That's not science, that's a belief.'

After it became known at the University of Western Australia that Professor Stone was a Christian and a creationist, he was asked to talk to some medical students there on the subject of creation vs evolution. When the department head, a professing Christian, was called to open the locked lecture room, he asked Brian about his topic. Hearing the answer, he dismissively said, 'Oh, so you belong to the lunatic fringe.'

Brian told us, chuckling,

'When I got up to talk, I told the medical students, "You'd better be careful about listening to me, because the head of your department has just diagnosed me as a lunatic." I had their attention from then on!'

A particularly delightful anecdote concerns the time just after his arrival from his native Wales to take up his professorial chair. He learned that the engineering faculty sponsored fortnightly talks on non-engineering subjects, which were usually attended by 40 or so students.

With only a week to the next talk, the speaker cancelled. Hearing that their new professor was a creationist, one of the faculty asked him to speak on the topic 'Is evolution scientific?'

When the time arrived, the 180-seat windowless auditorium was filled and overflowing, with academic staff as well as students turning out to hear the upstart new professor. Brian remembers thinking, 'There could be professors from the departments of geology and biology here for all I know.' He says he suddenly knew how the Israelite scouts felt, like grasshoppers in comparison to the giants inhabiting the land they were meant to capture (Numbers 13:32–33).

'I was somewhat apprehensive — my stomach wasn't quite where it should be. The chairman tried to ease the tension with a joke as he introduced me, but it didn't really work.'

Suddenly, just as he reached the microphone, there was a huge clap of thunder outside and the entire room was plunged into darkness — with the exception of one spotlight still shining its narrow beam directly onto Prof. Brian Stone. The 'ice was broken' by gales of laughter when Brian's first words were, 'Well, now you know what you're up against!'

He says:

'My nerves disappeared immediately. I realised that the God who made heaven and Earth — wow, he's my God. Who are these professors anyway, I thought, and suddenly these giants shrivelled up



in my sight. I actually had a very interesting opportunity, a head start in a sense, because at that time, these academics were dogmatically teaching the gradualistic theory of evolution as fact. They had not yet caught up with the way some fossil experts overseas were beginning to admit that there really weren't all these in-between fossils. They were proposing a new theory, evolution happening in fits and starts ("punctuated equilibrium") to try to deal with this. So I could use their admissions to point out the fallacies in what people believed to be fact.'

Brian Stone became a Christian at the age of 15 after seeing a filmstrip about the missionaries who gave their lives to reach the Auca Indians of South America. After this, he was taught, both in science and, sadly, in Scripture classes, evolutionary concepts which, he says, 'basically attacked the Bible'. So he found out all he could about origins, and within a year or so was giving talks defending Genesis creation.

He says that, while unwilling to debate the precise age of the Earth, he is certain in his own mind that it is not millions of years old. He is also clear that there cannot have been death and bloodshed before the sin of Adam. He says:

'A major issue in all this is the judgment of God on the whole creation at the Fall, which is totally undermined by the traditional vast-ages viewpoint.'

We asked him about the global Flood of Noah. He replied:

'I accept that this is what the Scripture teaches, not just the Old Testament, but the New Testament as well. The Scriptures are true, they are the words of God, and they consistently teach this. And there is clear evidence consistent with this Flood.'

As an engineer involved in designing complex structures which work, Brian's popular talks on creation deal a lot with design issues. He likes to point out some of the incredibly complex design features which creatures have, and then ask how they could possibly have evolved, how the intermediate stages could have been functional at all. He says, 'Design is, to me, everywhere to be seen.'

We asked him why so many people do not 'see' the design everywhere. He replied:

'I believe it's because they are what the Bible calls "dead in trespasses and sin", and "the god of this world has blinded their eyes". However, Romans 1 is very clear that they're without excuse in this. One of the ways God is using to open eyes is through the proclamation of the creation message, like you're doing through your talks and Creation magazine.'

REFERENCE AND FOOTNOTE

1. 'Nominations for the awards were open to all 36 Australian public universities, its two private universities, as well as Batchelor College and the Australian Maritime College'. *The Australian*, November 26, 1997, p. 37.
2. Of course, even these tiny changes are in the wrong direction anyway; they are not associated with any increase in genetic information, which is what evolution requires.

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Jumping Ship: A geneticist tells of his ‘double conversion’

by Don Batten and Carl Wieland

First published in:
Creation 20(3):26–27
June–August 1998

Dr James Allan, M.Sc.Agric. (Stellenbosch), Ph.D. (Edinburgh), retired as senior lecturer in the Department of Genetics, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa, in 1992. He has researched the genetics of fruit flies, snails, chickens, dairy cattle and fish, and taught students quantitative and population genetics, particularly in its application to the breeding of animals. He spoke recently with Dr Don Batten and Dr Carl Wieland.

Dr Allan told us that he accepted evolution as a young student at university ‘virtually from the word go’. He says, ‘For about 40 years I believed in the theory of evolution.’ He thought that evolution explained the similarities that exist between living things — such as all living things sharing the system of coding genetic information on DNA — and never questioned the idea. Things shared the DNA code because they had a common ancestor, he thought.

Jim started to go to a different church and heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the first time. He says:

I saw my weaknesses, my sin, my faults. I was converted and I began to read Scripture really meaningfully for the first time.

However, he carried on believing in evolution, until one day his wife said, ‘Is there any reason why God should not have created all forms of life on the basis of a universal genetic code?’

Jim shared his response:

My immediate reaction was one of annoyance. What is she on about? — absolute nonsense! What does she know about such things? And then I got up in a state of irritation and I stalked out of the house. As I walked, I found myself thinking, and I really believe at that stage God spoke to me. He humbled me. I suddenly found myself thinking, you know, maybe she does have a point. Maybe God did create all forms of life on the basis of a universal genetic code. I mean, why should we expect God to do otherwise?

This whole argument of DNA — the universality of DNA — is a major plank of the common ancestry argument. I became aware that the Word of God was more important than my concept of science. And I truly can say that I became aware that I’d been worshipping and serving created things rather than the Creator, as Paul said (Romans 1:25).

Jim says he had a ‘double conversion’ — his spiritual conversion and his conversion from evolution to accepting creation. He says that this brought about a ‘radical change’ in the way he regarded God. He says that previously, he had a god of his own making, one he kept ‘in a box’, not the God of the Bible. But now, the beauty, perfection and the wonder of the Scriptures just ‘jump out’ at him.

We asked him how he now viewed the supposed evidence for evolution. He said:

[‘Evolution’ Rebuttals](#) • [Why does it Matter?](#) • [How Old is the Earth?](#)
[Supposed Evidence](#) • [Design & Purpose](#) • [Voices for Creation](#) • [‘Refuting Evolution’](#)

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'I began to look more critically at the assumptions underlying some of those things that seemed so logical. For example, I came to see that resemblances between taxonomic families, orders, classes, etc. are due to the work of a creator, not common ancestry.'

Jim Allan says that previously, when people brought up creationist interpretations of the evidence he would say, 'Why bring that nonsense to me? — it's not science.'

But in the last decade or so, as he has considered a number of these, he has found that they are perfectly reasonable and intellectually acceptable. He now finds it sad that anyone should insist on evolutionary interpretations, which are 'unproven and unprovable'. 'Science,' he says:

'becomes much more meaningful and satisfying in the light of Scripture, rather than in rejecting it. And I certainly believe it is only as we consider together with legitimate science, the truth learned from Scripture, that we can ever really understand and appreciate the physical universe in which we live.'

What about the six days of creation? Jim says:

'Jesus refers in various ways to the earliest part of Scripture and says that no part of the Scripture can be broken [John 10:35]. A lot of people I have spoken to have said, "Well, you know, I believe in Jesus Christ, but I don't believe — no, no, no — it doesn't have to be in six days." But God did not say it took Him six billion years to do this and then He rested for a billion years. It says six days. And I believe six days. It has brought me a vastly greater awareness of the reality of God. If you think in terms of millions of years to now, you automatically think of millions of years in the future. And God, Scripture, Jesus Christ and saving Grace all become something rather wishy-washy and lost in the midst of this vastness.'

'But if one accepts six creation days and the genealogies of Scripture, so the time overall is a question of about six thousand years — this is something the human mind can comprehend more clearly, and it brings, for me, the whole reality of God so much closer.'

Dr Allan says that when he was a 'Christian evolutionist', he had not thought of the fact that believing that the fossils formed millions of years before man meant that there was death and bloodshed before sin. However, he was now acutely aware of the problem. He is now crystal clear about it; God created in perfection, and there was no death in the world until Adam sinned.

Asked how he coped as a creationist university lecturer, he said he used to give two lectures on evolution. One was what the theory said, and the other why he didn't believe it.

We raised the issue of new species forming by natural selection, to which he replied:

'It doesn't matter if one population breaks into several subgroups, even to the extent of not reproducing with each other anymore. In fact, you would expect that to happen after the Flood, so coyotes, wolves, dingoes and so on might have had a common ancestor, but the key is that there's no new information — that natural processes don't create any new DNA information. I've observed 40 generations of selection of fruit flies. I've seen lots of defective flies because of mutations, but I've never seen new, additional genetic information appear which would give hope to evolutionists. The belief in amoeba-to-man evolution needs a huge amount of new genetic information.'

Having retired from secular education, Dr Allan now lectures in churches, schools and universities on the reality of Biblical Creation.

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Physics, faith and the FBI: An interview with physicist Saami Shaibani

by Carl Wieland and Don Batten

First published in:
Creation 23(1):18–21
December 2000 – February 2001

Dr Saami Shaibani, B.A. (Hons), M.A., M.Sc., D.Phil, a physics professor and researcher, is a leading consultant for America's Federal Bureau of Investigation. Among his awards is the designation *International Expert* by the US Departments of Labor and Justice. He has 100 published scholarly articles to his credit. His surname comes from 'Sons of Sheba' in Hebrew and Arabic, although he is of British ethnicity as far back as he can trace it. Courtroom testimonies form an important part of his FBI consulting work, and he also lectures frequently.

It's not every day one gets to interview someone with four earned science¹ degrees from the UK's world-renowned University of Oxford. Dr Saami (pronounced 'Sammy') Shaibani, who now lives in Virginia, USA, has a rare combination of expertise in physics applied to trauma² to the human body. One of the several hats he wears is that of a 'clinical professor of physics', teaching the physics of medicine to physicians and surgeons.

Saami has done extensive research on the triggering systems for automotive air bags and seatbelt locking systems. He says, 'Crashing into a brick wall at 30 mph, the whole system has to be up and running within about 20 thousandths of a second.' His research enabled him to 'identify failure modes and propose design modifications to reduce the likelihood of death or injury'. Taking precise measurements and investigating the physical characteristics of vehicles forms part of Saami's reports on car safety. Trauma investigations for the FBI help to assess the plausibility of injuries before prosecutions can commence.

When the FBI needs expert advice about trauma to the human body in criminal cases, one of their top consultants is Dr Shaibani. He said:

'For example, a woman in South Dakota had been brutally beaten to death. I was asked a couple of weeks ago to determine if her body was found in a position that was consistent with the injuries received.'

There are often great difficulties for medical examiners and forensic pathologists in distinguishing between blunt trauma from a fall downstairs, as opposed to a blow from a baseball bat, for instance. Or, in child abuse cases, where Dr Shaibani often gives evidence, distinguishing between accidental and deliberate injury. So Dr Shaibani is asked to apply his combination of physics and medical science expertise. The FBI produces visual exhibits of his calculations to help juries understand the scientific issues.

He says:

'Babies, by and large, do not have fractured skulls from falling off a chair or changing table. There are these floating plates on a baby's head that don't knit for months, so the baby's head is soft enough

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to accommodate a lot of mechanical deformation without generating high stresses. So they will be able to withstand blows which would fracture an adult skull. Babies are vulnerable, and fall over easily, so this way they don't crack their skull each time.'

Once, when asked by a criminal defence attorney in cross examination *why* babies' skulls do not easily fracture, he said, 'To be perfectly honest with you, sir, I think that's the way God designed them.'

As a Bible-believing Christian, Dr Shaibani is fervently pro-life. He sees it as a bitter, tragic irony that the same society that properly spends millions to prosecute those who commit violence on babies, also spends millions inflicting (fatal) violence on babies while still in the womb, just because they are a few weeks younger.

DRIFTING AWAY

When Dr Shaibani talks about 'God', and 'design', it's not some throwaway line covering a belief in evolution. He believes the Bible from the very first verse. He was converted to a saving faith in Jesus Christ while at Oxford, but went through a time of sliding away. As he went on to post-graduate work, all those who graduated with him left. He says:

'I was without my "support system" and, regrettably, I began to drift away ... I sort of said, "Look, Lord, I'm very busy with this graduate work, do You mind if I put things on hold, and I'll get back to You when I'm finished?" Not only was that a terrible thing to do, but I later reneged on that commitment. Oxford is a wonderful place, a great privilege, but there are many distractions, and I became selfish and self-indulgent.'

A physical sciences doctorate in Oxford normally takes four-and-a-half years; his was completed in two-and-a-half. Yet this gives him no pride; rather, he says:

'I had made my studies a god, worshipping academia and making sacrifices to my career'.

What brought him back to full relationship with God?

'Coming to the USA removed the distractions and temptations of Oxford "cold turkey", and at the same time, I met a dear man of God who has since passed away. I probably needed to be hit over the head, but he just said, "Any time you want a ride to church, you know where to get one." Little by little, I just crept back into the fold.'

Dr Shaibani is a member of the well-known Bible-distributing organization, the Gideons. He believes that the Bible's authority takes absolute precedence over man's opinions. He says:

'I got myself into a lot of trouble when teaching Sunday School. At the beginning of the year I said to the class, "Your opinion is irrelevant. My opinion is irrelevant." Holding up a Bible, I said, "It's only God's opinion that's going to count for anything." I was booed and jeered, because they all felt entitled to an opinion. My response to that was, "Which verse is that?"'

Dr Shaibani's passion for the authority of Scripture attracted him to the ministry of *Answers in Genesis*. He believes that the lack of interest in the Word of God that pervades our churches today has a great deal to do with the evolutionary indoctrination of society. He said:

'It's alarming and disappointing how few pastors believe the vital, foundational first eleven chapters of Genesis. How can you expect those in the pews to believe them when the issue is sidestepped, downplayed, and worse? AiG's ministry to the leadership of the church is fantastic; it's almost as though pastors need to be kicked in the rear and told, "Look, you've got to get your act together. This stuff is for real, and until you understand it's for real, you'll have a limited potential as to what God's going to do in your church".'

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LONG-AGE ‘FRAUD’

We talked about the many Christian leaders who wanted to add millions of years to the Bible because of the ‘authority’ of scientific opinion. Dr Shaibani said:

‘Our sense of our own cleverness is hopelessly misguided. Take the age issue. I’m a physicist, and I’m more than happy to take God at face value that things are 6–7,000 years old. I am very disappointed with the fundamental fraud that “science” offers people in saying something is X-million years old. Suppose one year I got a pay increase of \$1,000, and then next year for some reason another one of \$2,000. If I extrapolate this far enough, I’ll be a zillionaire! It’s the arrogance of man to say that because we’ve had 100 years or so of data, we can extrapolate backwards almost infinitely. If my students did an experiment with two data points that ridiculously close to each other, and tried to extrapolate them by orders of magnitude, I’d fail them—it’s just too ridiculous. In man-made dating methods, there is assumption upon assumption, plus a couple of more assumptions sprinkled in, plus some blind guesswork. And this masquerades as wonderful, legitimate methodology, but it’s not. 1 Corinthians 1:25–27 says that the foolishness of God is wiser than man’s cleverness.’

Saami also reminded us of how science is always changing. He said:

‘When railways were invented, a popular scientific theory held that even though the train could go faster than 30 mph, it should not, because the passengers’ lungs would collapse. Such absurd notions were grounded in the science of the day, which was found to be utterly flawed. I think this reverence for “science” rather than God’s Word is a tremendous tool of Satan. As far as I’m concerned, the whole evolution/long ages thing requires a whole lot more faith than the creation perspective. There’s a basic lack of honesty there—an unwillingness to say, “Look, this is my best guess.” OK, friend, I don’t have a problem with your guessing, but tell me it’s a guess, and don’t try to corrupt the authority of science by claiming your guess is science.’

We asked about Christian leaders who claim that Genesis cannot *mean* what it clearly teaches—recent creation of the universe in six Earth-rotation days, and global Flood. Dr Shaibani said that he would like to tell them that:

‘when you start putting words in God’s mouth, you’re going to have a lot of problems. The moment we start saying to God, “God, You really don’t mean this, You mean something else which I feel more comfortable with”, then that’s a slippery slope.’

Dr Shaibani said it was frustrating for him that more people didn’t know that belief in the first 11 chapters of Genesis was compatible with the highest levels of intellect and education. We were pleased to be able to tell him that this interview, with a world leader in his scientific field, would help to get that message out to many tens of thousands of people around the world.

NOTES

1. Dr Shaibani’s B.A. and M.A. are in physical science areas. D.Phil is what many other institutions refer to as a Ph.D.
2. Force or impact potentially causing injury.

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Dr Joachim Scheven: Creationist paleontologist

Dr Joachim Scheven is a zoologist/paleontologist with a Ph.D. from the University of Munich. He worked as a research biologist at an institute in Tübingen and taught in Africa and Germany before setting up his single-handedly amassed collection of 'living fossils' in a Flood geology display at the *Lebendige Vorwelt* museum in Hagen Germany. He is also an expert on insects preserved in amber.

A LIVING FOSSIL

Dr Scheven even has a species of twisted-wing insect named after him: *Bohartilla joachimscheveni*. He discovered it in Dominican amber (fossilised tree resin),¹ which evolutionists claim is 35 million years old. If that were true, imagine how many millions of generations of this *Bohartilla* would have given mutations the opportunity to change this type drastically. However, it is fundamentally identical to the living *Bohartilla* from Central America.

Fossils never show any significant 'evolution' — rather, they show that fossil creatures have no remaining living counterparts (extinction), or that they have stayed essentially the same (stasis), or have degenerated (lost information).

REFERENCE

1. Ragnar Kinzelbach and Hans Pohl, 'The Fossil Strepsiptera (Insecta: Strepsiptera)', *Annals of the Entomological Society of America* **87**(1):59–70, 1994.

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